Daily Report

Latin America

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Salvadoran Foreign Minister Denies Summit

PA1411035088 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0221 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] San Salvador, 13 Nov (EFE)—Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta today denied that the Central American presidents will hold a summit on 25 and 26 November, as has been announced.

"It cannot be held on that date because time is running short," Acevedo said at the end of an informal meeting with his colleagues from the OAS, whose general assembly opens here tomorrow.

The five Central American foreign ministers will meet tonight to discuss this topic, but the Salvadoran minister said the date for the presidential summit will not be determined. "The most we can hope for is to decide on the date for the meeting of the executive commission" of the "Esquipulas II" peace agreement.

According to Acevedo Peralta, the foreign ministers will not take advantage of their presence in San Salvador to prepare for the summit because it [the foreign ministers' meeting] "has to be held in Nicaragua, according to the system established by the executive commission," which is composed of the regional foreign ministers.

The Salvadoran foreign minister declined to explain the reason for the new summit postponement, noting that "We simply have not reached an agreement."

He noted, however, that as soon as the date for the foreign ministers meeting in Managua is decided, "there will be no major obstacle to the presidential summit."

In tonight's meeting, which Acevedo Peralta described as a "social event," Honduras will try to secure the consensus of the rest of the Central American countries to ask the United States about allowing Spanish, West German, and Canadian troops to patrol its borders with El Salvador and Nicaragua to prevent Salvadoran guerrillas and Nicaraguan "contras" from entering its territory.

Several of the Nicaraguan Resistance leaders arrived in San Salvador today to "make a request of the OAS," Azucena Ferrey, who is one of them, told ACAN-EFE.

Ferrey declined to say what the request will be, but he said some of the leaders are trying to get some delegation, which "does not have to be the U.S. delegation," to accredit them so that they can participate in the assembly.

Argentina Backs L.A. Parliament Treaty

PY0811135488 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0226 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Lima, 7 Nov (EFE)—Argentine Ambassador to Peru Anselmo Marini today delivered to the Peruvian Foreign Ministry a document which ratifies the Latin American parliament institutionalization treaty.

Peruvian Foreign Minister Luis Gonzalez Posada received the document.

During the ceremony the Argentine ambassador explained that: "Convinced of the importance of the Latin American parliament for the integration of our peoples and of the importance it will have in the future of Latin America, the Argentine National Congress has approved this institutionalization treaty."

The institutionalization treaty was signed in Lima on 16 November 1987. The document ratifying the treaty is signed by Argentine President Raul Alfonsin.

Ministers To Implement Andean 'Condor' Project

PY0911130188 Madrid EFE in Spanish
1800 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Lima, 8 Nov (EFE)—Transportation ministers from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela will meet in Quito from 16 to 18 November to implement the Andean Group satellite project known as "Condor."

The Cartagena Accord Executive Board today announced in Lima that the Andean Satellite Telecommunication Organization (OATS) will be created in Quito. The OATS will be in charge of carrying out the "Condor" project.

The board believes that the implementation of this project will result in a greater social and cultural rapprochement among the Andean nations because it will help to speed up and improve telephone and television communications as well as the dissemination of educational programs.

The OATS' first task will be the immediate call for bids for the construction and the launching of the "Condor" satellite.

The satellite will cost approximately $250 million and is expected to be launched in 1992.

Cuba

Havana Radio Outlines 'Challenges' for Bush

PA1111175288 Havana International Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Nov 88

["Viewpoint" commentary read by Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] As predicted, in Tuesday's election, George Bush defeated Democratic Party candidate Michael Dukakis by a large margin. In doing so, Bush won the right to succeed Ronald Reagan as President of the United States on 20 January. Shared power between the legislative and executive branches will continue after 20 January. A member of the Republican Party will be living in the White House, and the U.S. Congress will be ruled by a Democratic majority. This means that confrontations between the two branches will continue since the two do not agree on several issues.

The choosing of the new President ended a heated campaign during which each of the two candidates collected approximately $70 million, including illegal donations, to finance the great radio, television, and press propaganda marathon that lasted several months. The absence of clear issues was evident throughout this campaign. The hottest domestic and foreign issues were never mentioned during the campaign. The campaign was marked by mutual accusations and even insults when discussing trivial matters. In light of all this, the campaign that just ended was not only the most expensive campaign, but also the most negative and superficial in the modern history of the United States.

George Bush, a 64-year-old man, is the first incumbent U.S. Vice President to win a presidential election in 152 years. It is quite probable that during his term in office, he will continue to pursue the same policies that Ronald Reagan pursued over the past 8 years. A conservative trend should mark Bush's tenure; however, it will be quite different from the one that marked Ronald Reagan's early years in office. The peace policy with the USSR and other socialist countries, the agreements reached on the topic of disarmament, and the international climate, which is currently favorable for solving regional differences, will be matters for consideration by the next White House resident. The Irangate issue will continue to overshadow George Bush because, to date, he has said nothing regarding his role in one of the most controversial and illegal operations carried out by the United States. It is quite possible that the current Vice President will follow in Reagan's footsteps and praise chauvinism and repeatedly use the term great nation, which the current President has so cleverly used in all his public speeches.

Meanwhile, the underdeveloped world, especially Latin America, should expect nothing in terms of a solution to their economic problems, including the foreign debt and protectionism. During the electoral debate, these issues were very superficially broached.

Domestically, George Bush will be facing big challenges. He must keep his promise to refrain from increasing taxes and reduce the deficit that has turned the United States into the world's biggest debtor. The United States has paid a price for its economic growth. It cut social benefits and amassed enormous trade and budget deficits. The Democratic opposition will continue to point out these failures.

George Bush has just won a race in which many U.S. people felt that the two candidates, Bush and Dukakis, were not honest and far from good choices for the country. The new President of the United States will have to confront this truth and the fact that the world expects the United States to act responsibly and maturely in handling key issues.

Commentary Criticizes 'Hypocrisy' of U.S. Aid

PA1211014388 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Nov 88

["Our America" commentary, read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] Humanitarian: referring to the well-being of mankind; benevolent, charitable, helpful. We are referring to this definition, which can be found in any dictionary because some governments use the word as it suits them best. This is how, under the well-advertised title of humanitarian aid, the U.S. Congress recently approved the Presidential request to grant a new $27-million aid package to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary gangs. The contrast is very obvious because the periodic allocation of huge sums of money to groups of assassins has nothing to do with charity or benevolence, while at the same time, the U.S. Government is trying to prevent some organizations from sending true humanitarian aid to the victims of Hurricane Joan.

As should be remembered, U.S. Government officials said previously that no aid at all would be given to the humanitarian organizations wishing to send aid to the Nicaraguan people. Although a small part of this aid was already sent to Nicaragua, U.S. authorities have not said they will encourage the work being done by these organizations, nor will the U.S. Government itself draft an aid plan for the hundred of thousands of hurricane victims. Undoubtedly, every certain period of time, the misunderstood or incorrectly applied U.S. humanitarianism—millions of dollars taken from the taxpayers' contributions—ends up in the hands of the counterrevolutionaries.

Everyone knows very well that the millions in aid granted to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary gangs have been used by them and mainly by their leaders in all sorts of businesses, including drug trafficking. Therefore, to try to hinder the sending of aid to the Nicaraguan people, who have been suffering for the past 8-years from the U.S. embargo and the undeclared war, is unjust in addition to being a sarcastic, and represents a deeply

anti-humanitarian attitude. In many aspects of its foreign policy, the U.S. Government has adopted unprecedented attitudes, to which we must add that only a few can surpass the U.S. hypocrisy.

Quadripartite Delegations Arrive in Geneva

FL101202688 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2002 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Delegations participating in negotiations on southwest Africa, the Cuban and Angolan delegations among them, arrived in Geneva today. It was reported that the Geneva quadripartite talks will begin tomorrow, Friday, and will possibly end on Sunday with the usual attendance of representatives from Angola, Cuba, South Africa, and the United States.

Some Geneva sources noted that the ninth quadripartite meeting on southwest Africa will be held this time through what has been called informal contacts, and matters will be discussed with great discretion.

The Cuban delegation to the meeting arrived in Geneva today. It is headed by Carlos Aldana, secretary of the PCC Central Committee, and composed of Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, chief of the FAR General Staff; and Foreign Vice Minister Ricardo Alarcon.

Bilateral Contacts Begin

FL1111200388 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] The joint Angolan-Cuban delegation that is attending the quadripartite conference on southwestern Africa in Geneva began contacts today with the U.S. delegation which, is headed by Chester Crocker. This bilateral contact is part of a number of meetings, termed as informal, which are also in preparation for a formal meeting that may be held in Brazzaville, Congo.

The conference which began today in Geneva is scheduled to end this Sunday. It is possible that it may end the way it began—that is to say, with bilateral and formal contacts. Alcibiades Hidalgo, spokesperson for the Cuban delegation, told the press that although possibilities for an agreement exist, all parties attending the negotiations must also want an agreement. He added that Angola and Cuba have had as an invariable goal the beginning of negotiations. Both went to the Geneva meeting with a positive attitude of arriving at a possible solution, as long as it is legitimate, fair, and it reflects the interests of all parties. Informal contacts began yesterday among the Angolan, Cuban, South African, and U.S. delegations, but the issues discussed were not revealed.

Chester Crocker, U.S. assistant secretary of state [for African Affairs], also met today with the South African delegation, and it was said that a date could possibly be announced for a 10th round of talks. Crocker also met in Geneva with Anatoliy Adamishin, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, to analyze the steps that the Soviet Union and the United States could take to help contribute to the quick conclusion of the negotiations on southwest Africa. They also discussed the situation in the African cone—a zone which (?includes) the countries of the Red Sea, among them Ethiopia and Somalia.

Adamishin's Comments Noted

FL1111142088 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] The quadripartite negotiations on southwestern Africa will resume today in Geneva. The Angolan, Cuban, South African, and U.S. delegations arrived yesterday in the Swiss city. None of the participants said which issues will be discussed; and it is believed that the meeting will end on Sunday. Sources have indicated that this time the conference will be held through what has been called informal contacts. The Cuban delegation is headed by Carlos Aladana, secretary of the PCC Central Committee.

In New York, the UN Council on Namibia denounced the increase of South African troops in that territory. (Peter Sussex), president of the council, said that South African forces stationed in Namibia were recently increased to 50,000 in total strength.

In Geneva, Anatoliy Adamishin, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, said that Pretoria must pull out of Namibia and end that occupation which is contrary to international norms. The official also rejected South African attempts to link Namibia's independence to the presence of Cuban troops in Angola. Adamishin pointed out that his country is not attempting to (?speak for) the parties that are participating in the quadripartite negotiations, although it does desire a solution to the conflict. The vice minister emphasized that the good will shown by Cuba and Angola in the possibilities for finding a solution in the region is noteworthy, but he regretted that South Africa does not maintain a similar attitude.

Adamishin met yesterday in Geneva with Chester Crocker, U.S. assistant secretary of state [for African affairs], who is acting as a mediator in the negotiating process.

Aldana Comments

FL1211190888 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] The ninth round of quadripartite negotiations on southwest Africa continues today in Geneva with bilateral contacts. These meetings have been described as informal.

The head of the Cuban delegation, Carlos Aldana, said that the delegations are continuing their work and he did not exclude the possibility of a plenary session taking place this afternoon.

Up to now, it has not been confirmed that this round of talks between the representatives of Cuba, Angola, and South Africa, with the United States as the mediator, will end tomorrow as was stated in the official timetable. Geneva newspapers report that the meeting may be extended until Monday or Tuesday.

Sources at the conference say that a meeting in Brazzaville, capital of the Congo, is possible after the Geneva meeting ends.

For his part, Chester Crocker, who heads the American delegation, said that although there is a media blackout on the Geneva meeting, he would probably make a statement when this meeting concludes.

Crocker, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, met today with the delegations of Cuba, Angola, and South Africa. In turn, Neil van Heerden, who heads the South African delegation, met today with Finland's Marti Ahtissari, head of the United Nation's forces, who will supervise Pretoria's withdrawal from Namibia and the holding of free elections in that country.

The South-West African People's Front, SWAPO, issued a statement saying that the Namibian patriots will continue their armed struggle if there is no evidence that UN Resolution 435, dealing with Namibia's independence, is being carried out. The document also states that SWAPO praises the continuation of the quadripartite talks and expresses its optimism for establishing peace in Southwest Africa.

Immigration Thwarts Anti-Cuban Provocation

FL1011162988 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Today's edition of the GRANMA newspaper carries a report entitled "Immigration Authorities Thwart Anti-Cuban Provocation," which says:

Recently, under the protection of the current Yankee administration, small groups have been formed abroad which claim to be concerned about the situation of human rights in our country. In reality, we are dealing with individuals manipulated by U.S. special services and embassies [words indistinct] capital, who, in a rude and shameless manner, promote a climate of propaganda in the public opinion by resorting to false accusations against Cuba at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva. Yesterday afternoon and evening, some of these individuals, a total of nine, aboard flights from Mexico and Madrid, respectively, attempted to orchestrate an anti-Cuban show. Taking advantage of Cuba's tourism opportunities, they came to our country with tourist visas for the purpose of denouncing human rights violations if Cuba denied them entry into our national territory.

The curious thing is that the group is headed by two members of the Spanish Senate, who are known to belong to fascist positions—Javier Camara and (Meyola Palacios)—and are affiliated with the (?right-wing) Popular Alliance. The group also included two women, one a citizen of Spain and the other from Argentina. The women have acquired artificial notoriety as a result of their strange relationship with the charlatan, Armando Valladares, and with those who have carried out constant and calumnious attacks against our country, as well as with individuals deeply involved in radio attacks against Cuba.

The attitude of the group that arrived from Spain was very provocative, insolent, and disrespectful toward the Cuban authorities. It got to the point where they even challenged the authorities and refused to leave the country unless they were handcuffed. With this attitude, they also tried to delay the departure of the Iberia flight to irritate the passengers.

These individuals had been previously warned by Cuban diplomats in Spain, through officials of that country, that if they attempted to go to Cuba with those intentions, they would immediately be sent back to their place of origin. They were also directly informed of that decision before they boarded their plane for Cuba. As proof of their insolent attitude and shameful ties with the Yankee government, this group was seen off at the Madrid airport by a former Batista policeman, a counterrevolutionary terrorist, and current U.S. ambassador to the UN Human Rights Commission, Armando Valladares. In accordance with our sovereign right to admit or deny the entry of any person into our nation, the immigration officials, in a firm and calm manner, immediately reboarded both groups. This was done according to the standards and principles that the Cuban nation adopted through free determination.

Our people can be absolutely certainty that Cuban authorities will act strongly against maneuvers of this nature. Also, they will not permit provocateurs, CIA agents, or other Yankee imperialist agitators, under the disguise of pseudotourists, to infiltrate the country by taking advantage of Cuba's hospitality.

It would be wise for these individuals and the representatives of their governments to know that should these provocative activities be repeated against our revolution, the Cuban authorities will take more radical measures against the provocateurs which could include being taken to the appropriate tribunals.

This concludes the text of the report published in today's edition of GRANMA.

Group Claims Injuries

FL1011231388 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2241 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] A group of individuals, two right-wing Spanish senators among them, have staged another anti-Cuban show [preceding word in English] at the Madrid international airport after being expelled from our country.

Once the immigration procedures were completed, the nine people started to shout against Cuba and Nicaragua and accused the Spanish administration of not supporting them.

Maria Paz Martinez de Nieto, representative in Madrid of Armando Valladares, U.S. ambassador to the UN Human Rights Commission, said they were struck by some 30 Cuban uniformed men at the Jose Marti Airport. Without showing the slightest scratch or bruise, the organizer of the supposed tourist trip to Cuba could not deny that this was another provocative action of the former policeman of the Batista dictatorship turned U.S. ambassador to Geneva.

Ambassador To Spain Comments

FL1111010188 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0026 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Telephone interview with Oscar Garcia, Cuban ambassador to Spain, from Madrid by "Exclusivo" host Daniel Torres—live]

[Text] [Torres] Ambassador, we would like to hear your version of the events, the anti-Cuban show [preceding word in English] staged at the Barajas Airport by this group of individuals today. We greet you and wait for your version.

[Garcia] Daniel, what I can tell you is that when these people arrived, after they went through customs and so forth, a group of reporters from radio, television, and newspapers were waiting for them to get their statements. There was no public present. You could see that it was obviously staged in the same way they attempted to do in Cuba. It was a staged provocation directed by Valladares and, consequently, by the Yankee embassy. What happened here was a continuation of what they tried to do there. They were not able to come out of it cleanly. I would say they were unsuccessful. So far, it has had relatively little effect in the media.

[Torres] So, this publicity campaign was not really successful.

[Garcia] I believe it has not been successful to the degree they wanted. It must be noted that these people, especially the two senators of the movement—who, by the way, didn't let us know that they were going to Cuba, they never reported it officially, they made a private trip and now they [words indistinct] this is an argument which has no value. The truth of the matter is that they were lamenting themselves at the top of their voices and strongly criticized the Spanish Government and the behavior of the officials of the Spanish Embassy in Havana because, apparently, those people did not receive what they wanted. Ultimately, what they wanted was to stage a show, stage a spectacle and provocation.

[Torres] Thank you very much Comrade Oscar Garcia. Sorry for bothering you so late at night.

[Garcia] Don't mention it.

[Torres] Thank you. We send you a fraternal greeting. Until next time Comrade Ambassador.

[Garcia] Until next time. Good night.

'Anti-Cubans' Criticized

FL1211025088 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] The maneuvers of the group of anti-Cuban individuals headed by two legislators of the right-wing Popular Alliance suffered today a big blow as they were criticized by Jose Federico de Carvajal, president of the Spanish Senate. He said the two Popular Alliance senators had made the trip on their own and not as parliamentarians.

He was referring to the anti-Cuban show [preceding word in English] staged by Loyola and Javier Camara at the Havana airport. De Carvajal reiterated that this was done by the parliamentarians on their own. In statements made to the Madrid press today, the Spanish Senate president reported that the two parliament members did not tell the chamber what they were going to do. The Popular Alliance group did not know about it either, as confirmed by its spokesman (Jose Miguel Orti Bordas).

Officials Blame U.S.

FL1211135688 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Rosendo Canto, director of the Cuba House [as heard] in Madrid, has accused the United States of organizing the anti-Cuban show [preceding word in English] which was held in Havana by alleged tourists. The show was headed up by two senators of the right-wing Popular Alliance .

Canto said that the interests of Washington were behind the childish demonstration, as well as the antics of groups intending to disrupt the excellent relations between the Governments of Cuba and Spain.

Angolan Independence Day Noted, Celebrated

Ambassador Comments

FL1111191988 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1252 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Interview with Luis Dokui Paulo de Castro, Angolan ambassador to Cuba, by Isabel Laje carried by "Morning Magazine" program, date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Laje] November 11 is the national holiday of the brother nation of Angola, and the country celebrates the occasion. For that reason, we have interviewed the most excellent Mr Ambassador from the brother country [passage indistinct]

[De Castro, in Spanish] The date 11 November 1975 was for the Angolan people the culmination of a struggle which had begun in 1482 and which had lasted over 5 centuries. It dates back to the beginning of the Portuguese colonization. It also meant the surge of the Angolan nationalists who in the (?1956) founded the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola]—a large organization which brought together many nationalists and which has given the political [word indistinct] for the struggle of the Angolan people.

[Laje] Ambassador, could you please refer to the main achievements and difficulties that the Government of Angola has had in these past 12 years?

[De Castro] Well, we can talk about achievements, but cannot forget the war that has been waged against us by international imperialism [words indistinct] of racist South Africa, the main condition of economic and social development of our country. Despite the war, we have done some things. We want to develop education and health for the people. We also make great efforts in [shifts thought]. We have just received the international award for literacy. We are doing everything possible to enhance the welfare of the people, amid all the difficulties we are going through.

[Leja] From an economic point of view, could you tell us what the main obstacles have been and the achievements made by the Goverment of Luanda?

[De Castro] Well, this year we (?began) the [word indistinct] and financial program. This is our 1st year. This is a program that [words indistinct]. This 1st year we traced the legal phases, some laws were changed, and we altered others. We are trying to encourage more integration for all the economic sectors in the country so that they all work towards the objectives of the revolution.

[Leja] Regarding other aspects dealing with the population's welfare, could you please relate some favorable events?

[De Castro] Yes, there are thousands of Angolans who were reintegrated into society. Today we are carrying out many tasks dealing with integration. There are many projects already approved, and some of them are already being applied in the southern part of the country. We do this with the support of the community [words indistinct] in those population reintegration plans.

[Leja] How would you evaluate the current cooperation between Cuba and Angola?

[De Castro] Although the capitalist press only reports on the military aspect, cooperation between Cuba and Angola is multifaceted. It exists in many and various areas such as education, health, and construction. (?I) can also say that, here in Cuba, we have over 6,000 students going to school and preparing themselves to participate in the development of our country.

[Leja] Could you tell us what the main obstacles have been recently for the Government of Angola?

[De Castro] Yes, after the warmongering escalation of the Pretoria Army, which attempted to occupy Cuito Cuanavale, there was a change in the [word indistinct] of forces. The Angolans and Cubans caused a great defeat for the racist Army of South Africa. [Words indistinct] a problem for us because South Africa had several and highly sophisticated means which led us to request more direct support from the internationalist Cuban forces. After this, the quadripartite talks began. We feel satisfied that that victory has made South Africa sit down to talk with us for the search of peace in southern Africa.

[De Castro] If you had to say what the most important thing in the past 12 years was, what would you say that was?

[Leja] I consider very important the possibility we have now to achieve peace. That is very important for us because [words indistinct] if peace is achieved. We think peace will be achieved shortly, and that it will be possible for us to develop our country and obtain the welfare of our people.

Risquet Present at Ceremony

FL1211163688 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] The 13th anniversary of Angola's independence was commemorated at Havana's Nico Lopez Higher Education Institute.

PCC Politburo member Jorge Risquet Valdes presided over the simple celebration. Also present were Luis Paolo de Castro, ambassador of the People's Republic of Angola to Cuba, and the diplomatic corp in our country. Angolan students in Cuba also took part in the celebration.

The revolution's obligation to the African nations are never ending, said Jaime Crombet, member of the PCC Central Committee Secretariat, at the meeting's conclusion.

[Begin Crombet recording] Thirteen years ago today, Angola joined the community of free nations, after a number of long and bloody battles against Portuguese colonization and exploitation.

The victory of 1975 was very important because reactionary forces, supported by American imperialism and its western allies, tried to stop, in vain, the Angolan people from proclaiming their victory, an independence that was paid for with the blood of millions of its best sons. [end recording]

As part of the activities to mark the anniversary of Angola's independence, a reception was held at the home of Luis Paolo de Castro. Present at the reception were

Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque and the President of the National Assembly of the People's Government, Severo Aguirre del Cristo, as well as other important people.

Rodriguez Receives CEMA Delegation Heads

FL1211023088 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0005 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers and the permanent Cuban representative to CEMA, has received the delegation heads that are in our country participating in the first meeting of the CEMA permanent commission for metallurgical cooperation. The Cuban vice president explained to the visitors the importance Cuba gives to the CEMA permanent commission for metallurgy which has great significance to the Cuban economy, not only because of nickel imports in the Cuban industrial production, but also because of the efforts it is making for the industrialization of its own minerals.

Cooperation Protocol Signed

FL1111213288 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] The first meeting of the CEMA permanent commission for ferrous and nonferrous metallurgical industry ended a few hours ago with the signing of a cooperation protocol for a 2-year period. This meeting, which began on 9 November, was very significant because all aspects related to the work needed to further the growth of the metallurgical field and satisfy the needs of CEMA member-countries in this important industry were discussed.

The proposal to build an alumina and aluminum production plant in the Soviet Union has to be highlighted among the points included in the cooperation protocol. The plant will use Soviet deposits and its annual production will reach 500,000 tons of aluminum ingots. This amount will cover the aluminum needs of all CEMA member-countries. The plant's construction cost is estimated at 3.615 billion rubles and will be built jointly by all the countries.

Health Minister Visits Hospitals in Rome

FL1011173288 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Public Health Minister Julio Teja visited yesterday several hospitals in Rome, Italy. Teja agreed on cooperation issues with those institutions. He was also received by Deputy (Eolo Parodi), president of the Italian Federation of Doctors.

Pope Receives Teja

FL1111165088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Pope John Paul II has received in a private audience Public Health Minister Julio Teja who conveyed a greeting from Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers. The Pontiff, in turn, asked Teja to greet the president and the Cuban people.

In a mutually respectful, cordial, and friendly climate, John Paul II and the Cuban minister exchanged opinions on the relations between the Vatican and Cuba.

Teja also met with Italian Minister of Health Carlos Donat-Cattin with whom he established various plans for reciprocal cooperation in the field of health.

Additionally, Minister Teja spoke with Cardinal (Robert Echagari), president of the Pontiff Commission for Justice and Peace, who will visit Cuba next December.

Teja Meets Andreotti, Departs

FL1111210088 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2021 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti has assured Julio Teja, Cuban public health minister, that there are good possibilities of cooperation with Cuba in the field of health. Teja ended his visit in Rome today. Shortly before returning to Havana, Teja had a conversation with Andreotti, who expressed his willingness to travel to Cuba next spring in response to an official invitation.

Confirming what Italian Health Minister Carlo Donat-Cattin had already said, Foreign Minister Andreotti noted that there is a lot of room for cooperation in the health sector between Italy and Cuba. He affirmed that a delegation of Italian technicians will visit the island for that purpose.

Cooperation Protocols Signed With DPRK

FL1111034888 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] A protocol on the 22d meeting of economic and scientific-technical cooperation and another one on trade for 1989 have been signed by Foreign Trade Ministers of Cuba and the DPRK, Ricardo Cabrisas and Kim Tae-chong [name as heard], respectively. The two documents show the increase in cooperation between the two countries in the spheres of agriculture; industry; steelworking, basic, and light industries; and public health. According to the protocols, trade for 1989 will increase in 11 percent compared to this year.

CDR Receives High-Level DPRK Delegation

FL1111033088 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] A high-level delegation of the DPRK's Democratic Front for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland arrived in Havana this afternoon. The delegation was invited by the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] National Directorate. It is headed by Yu Ho-chun, director of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification for the Fatherland and deputy of Supreme People's Assembly. The delegation will stay in Cuba for 10 days. Its main activities will include exchanges with CDR officials and visits to centers of economic importance and historic places. Members of the delegation will also visit provinces in the interior of the country. A ceremony on the solidarity and support for the cause of the Korean people will be held in Santiago de Cuba.

Ecuadoran Health Minister Arrives for Seminar

FL1211193988 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Ecuadoran Public Health Minister Dr Plutarco Naranjo arrived in Cuba last night to attend the 2d international seminar on primary health care. The Ecuadoran minister was received at the Jose Marti International Airport by Jorge Antelo, first vice minister of the Minsap [Public Health Minstry].

Delegates and guests from 30 countries will attend the medical event which will begin on Monday at the Palace of Conventions.

[Begin recording] [Naranjo, identified by caption] Ten years ago at a WHO meeting, the members of that health organization made a commitment to develop primary health care. However, Cuba is one of the few Latin American countries that knows how to fulfill this plan. The majority of countries that signed the agreement have not put much effort into using primary health care and family medicine.

I come here with great interest to see how Cuba has been able to apply a formula and general strategy for primary health care and how the country has developed the family medical system. We wish to take this experience back with us. We have done some work in this area, but not as much as we should have. The new government is justifiably interested in doing what has not been done. [end recording]

Industrial Enterprise Develops Antenna System

FL1111041088 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] An antenna system to transmit and receive broadcasts is being developed at the Ministry of Communication's industrial enterprise. Specialists of the towers and antenna workshop are working on this satellite system in cooperation with the Soviet Union as part of CEMA program for the accelerated development until the year 2,000. The satellite system has several frequency ranges with dishes of 4 and 7 meters of diameter.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] The technology we are using has the advantage of being able to get a pretty high precision level in the dish. The frequency ranges they operates on require this. We build the plastic parts with the required precision and install them over a metal structure which supports them. [Video shows satellite dishes] [end recording]

Four types of antennas for domestic and professional use are also built in the communications industrial enterprise. The working team has been trying to improve designs since 1983. It has saved the country imports amounting to $70.00 per unit.

Caricom

Lack of Resources Hampers Drug Fighting Efforts

FL1011235988 Bridgetown CANA in English 2130 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Nov. 10 CANA—Caribbean Community (Caricom) deputy secretary general, Louis Wiltshire, Thursday spoke of a lack of equipment hampering the region's ability to successfully combat drug trafficking. Wiltshire said that for the most part, police forces and coast guards in the islands do not have the kind of equipment with which they could effectively match the resources at the disposal of the traffickers. He singled out high speek boats and helicopters as examples of equipment lacking in the region, and expressed some doubt as to whether or not the region could harness international aid to purchase such equipment.

Wiltshire spoke at the end of a two-day meeting of Caricom officials which focused on the problems of drug abuse, control and abatement. He suggested that the region needed to preempt the problem of narcotics by forestalling addiction. "We have to attempt, in the fight against abuse, to concentrate on prevention," Wiltshire added. Wiltshire said conferees agreed that marijuana addiction was more common in the region than addiction to cocaine or heroin. One participating country produced statistics showing a ten-fold increase in hospital admissions as a result of narcotics in the past five years. This places greater strain on general health services, and forces a re-thinking and re-orientation of priorities in the region's health services, Wiltshire said.

Against this background, he announced agreement among delegates to swiftly complete a Canadian-financed survey to determine precisely the kinds of health facilities needed to supplement those already in existance.

Delegates also reviewed action at the regional level on drug abuse abatement and control and, according to Wiltshire, despite limited resources, the Caribbean was

able to make some significant strides forward in developing programs against drug abuse. "The member states found that what has been done so far was commendable," he added.

Delegates also discussed data collection, with some participants indicating that the public often acknowledged the full dimension of the problem only when documented details were presented. Wiltshire, however, said that many international donor agencies on which the Caribbean relied for help are not interested in this particular aspect of basic goundwork. "...We ourselves...cannot afford to do without it. We need to know exactly the dimension of the problem," Wiltshire added. He also said that the Caribbean needed to address the question of linking, on a regional scale, the efforts of voluntary, non-governmental organisations in the fight against drugs.

Grenada

Opposition Party Names Election Candidate

FL1011202888 Bridgetown CANA in English
1617 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Nov 10, CANA—Grenadian lawyer Michael Andrew will try to capture the rural St. Davids constituency seat for the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) in the next general election, according to opposition leader George Brizan. Brizan told CANA that Andrew was endorsed as the party's candidate at the NDC's last national executive meeting.

Andrew, the deputy chairman of the NDC, will be up against Minister Danny Williams, the mp [minister of parliament] for the constituency. Andrew is currently serving as a member of the prosecution team in the appeal filed by 17 leftist officials convicted of the 1983 execution of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

Informed sources said that he emerged as the candidate after the NDC conducted an opinion poll in which he defeated two others, accountant Michael Regis and civil servant Samuel Joseph.

The NDC is planning to introduce its candidate for the St Davids constituency on December 4.

Brizan said recently that the NDC has already shortlisted candidates for 13 of Grenada's 15 constituencies.

Government Denies Journalist on 'Blacklist'

FL1011202988 Bridgetown CANA in English
1535 GMT 10 Nov 88

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Nov 10, CANA—The Grenada Government has officially informed Caribbean journalist Rickey Singh that, contrary to a press report, he was not on any "so-called 'blacklist'", and that he was free to enter Grenada.

The assurance to the Guyanese-born freelance journalist, who is also president of the Caribbean Association of Media Workers (Camwork), was conveyed in a letter from Albert Xavier, the Grendian diplomat and personal adviser to Prime Minister Herbert Blaize.

Xavier responded to a letter sent by Singh to Prime Minister Blaize on June 1, and offered his "sincere apology" for the delay in clarifying the journalists freedom to enter Grenada.

"The prime minister", said Xavier, "has instructed me to apologize most sincerely for the delay," and to "inform you that he is not aware of any so-called 'blacklist'. Further, he has not issued instruction or edict barring your entry into Grenada in the exercise of your profession."

In a CANA report out of St Georges last May 30, a "security official" had claimed that Singh was on a "blacklist" of Caribbean citizens who were restricted from freely entering Grenada. The journalist said at the time that he was "amused" by the report pointing out that there had to be a mistake since he has visited Grenada on a number of occasions since the U.S.-led invasion of October 1983.

Jamaica

Opposition Leader Manley Congratulates Bush

FL1111002088 Bridgetown CANA in English
2344 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Nov 10, CANA—Opposition leader Michael Manley, seeking to become Jamaica's prime minister by next April, has told U.S. President-elect George Bush he is confident of good relations between Kingston and Washington during Bush's Presidency. Manley also told Bush that he expected that trade and economic relations between the United States and Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries would continue to benefit both sides.

"Your many years of public service and the experiences you have gained on national and international affairs will, I am sure, guide you in the tremendous and demanding reponsibilities in your new office," said Manley who leads the Socialist People's National Party (PNP), in a message to Bush.

Prime Minister Edward Seaga, seeking a third term in office and fighting Manley's strong challenge for his job, on Wednesday spoke of his personal relationship with Bush as well as the ideological similarity in discussing with journalists the prospects for U.S.-Jamaica relations under the Bush Presidency. Seaga also said that he had a very good relationship with James Baker, the man Bush has named to be his Secretary of State.

The issue of who can get more international assistance for Jamaica has been one of the campaign themes of Seaga's Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) in the election campaign here. From the JLP's perspective Bush in the White House would mean continuing the close relations that have developed between Kingston and Washington after he ousted Manly as prime minister in 1980 just ahead of Ronald Reagan's election to the Presidency. Relations were antagonistic during the Manley regime here because of his close relations with Cuba. United States aid to the island almost dried up while Manley was prime minister, but flowed strongly when Seaga came to office. But in recent years, Manley, who has consistently led in opinion polls here, has been attempting to mend fences with Washington. In the message to Bush, Manley said, "We of the PNP are confident that the good relations between Jamaica and the United States of America will continue and in addition that the economic countries and the U.S.A. will continue to our mutual benefit." Caricom is a free trade and functional co-operation arrangement between English-speaking Caribbean countries, who are beneficiaries of Washington's trade and aid plan, the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI).

Trade Deficit Grows During First 8 Months of 88

FL1111221588 Bridgetown CANA in English 2056 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Nov 11, CANA—Jamaica's trade deficit jumped 27.4 percent during the first eight months of this year compared with the corresponding period in 1987, new figures released here indicate.

According to the statistical institutes (Statin) external trade bulletin, the trade gap at the end of August was US418.8 million dollars, U.S.90.2 million dollars higher than the U.S.328.6 million at the end of August last year. The widening deficit on merchandise trade was spurred mainly by a 20 percent hike in imports which was not matched by the 14.8-percent increase in the value of exports indicated by the figures.

Imports between January and August this year reached US971.9 million dollars, against the just over US810 million dollars for the first eight months of 1987—a rise of just under US162 million dollars. However, the import figures seem to give credence to the government's argument that the bulk of the imports was going towards firing up the economy to produce the five percent growth that was forecast before Hurricane Gilbert slammed into the island on September 12.

Imports of capital goods and raw materials, as a single group, grew, according to Statins figures, by nearly 19 per cent or US124.8 million dollars in the eight-month period. As a single category, capital goods and raw materials at US787.3 million dollars between January and August 1988, accounted for 81 percent of total imports. Separately, the bulk of the rise in the review period was in capital goods, up US82.8 million dollars or 37 percent on the US223.7 million dollars between January and August 1987.

Raws material imports, on the other hand, grew by 9.5 percent or US42 million dollars, to US480.8 million dollars. At the same time, however, consumer imports, up 25 points, grew at a percentage rate higher than the other categories. Consumer imports between January and August reached US184.6 million dollars. Durables registered the fastest growth among consumer goods—up 50 percent at US42.4 million dollars.

In 1987 Jamaica registered a trade deficit of US525.5 million dollars against the US380 million dollar gap of the previous year. But Prime Minister Edward Seaga's administration said that the result deficit, caused by a sharp rise in imports, could be seen in the more than five percent in the economy last year.

Analysts expect a bigger trade gap here this year as a result of Hurricane Gilbert which damaged agriculture and stalled export production. The upshot is increased imports and less exports.

Meantime, Jamaica in its trade with its Caribbean Community (Caricom) partners recorded a surplus of US3.6 million dollars in the first eight months of this year, against a US17.4 million dollar deficit in corresponding 1987 period. Imports from the community slipped US7.5 million dollars or 17.1 per cent to US36.3 million dollars while exports were up 52 percent to US40 million dollars.

Haiti

Avril's Brother-in-Law Reportedly Shot to Death

FL1211015388 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0003 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text]Police reported today that a brother-in-law of President General Prosper Avril named (Louis-Marie Bonett), who was an official of the Immigration Department, was shot and killed last night.

Democratic Patriots Discuss Draft Decree

FL1011220888 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The big news over the past 2 weeks has been the draft decree law creating an Electoral College of Haiti, CEDHA, to organize elections. The text of this draft decree, which was distributed to certain political parties and organizations so that they could make suggestions and recommendations, has given rise to much indignation from certain political groups. [passage omitted]

At the Hotel Oloffson yesterday morning, the Union of Democratic Patriots, UPD, held a press conference in which it picked the electoral draft decree apart. According to UPD President Rockefeller Guerre, the draft decree is very similar to the decree put out by General Henri Namphy's National Government Council. [passage omitted]

We are heading directly toward fixed elections, in which a number of foreign governments are going to continue to lead things in the direction that they want them to go, said Guerre during this press conference.

Guerre addressed a few demands to General Prosper Avril, head of the military government. He asked that the government immediately withdraw its decree, which he says constitutes a provocation to all patriots in Haiti, be they civilians or members of the Armed Forces.

Secondly, he asked the government to form, before the end of this month, a Provisional Electoral Council, as the constitution of 1987 stipulates.

Third, he asked that a stop be put to all the acts of violence shaking Haiti in both urban and rural areas.

Fourth, the Haitian people, who need justice, must be given justice.

Fifth, the Constitution of 1987 must be reinstated.

Sixth, the government must release all political prisoners before 18 November, especially the patriotic soldiers whose only crime was to have placed Gen Avril at the head of the nation during the 17 September 1988 coup d'etat. [passage omitted]

For his part, UPD Secretary General Wilfrid McNally discussed in his expose the political situation in the country, which has not visibly changed. McNally said that the Haitian people's demands have to this day not been satisfied at all. Here is an excerpt of Mr McNally's statements yesterday at the Oloffson Hotel.

[Begin recording] Mr Prosper Avril knows very well everything the Haitian people want, and he has known it all along, all the way back to when Namphy was in power. In addition to this, he has the Constitution to direct and guide him. He might perhaps need an advisor—but then, he already has Mr [Gregoire] Eugene. Consequently, the favor the Haitian people need from these men of dialogue is to get Avril to make up his mind to arrest all the Duvalierist thieves and criminals; get him to publish the results of the investigations of all the crimes and murders that have been committed in Haiti; and help us discover where Jean-Claude Duvalier is hiding the money he stole from the Haitian people, a theft which is the cause of all this poverty.

(?He should) protect peaceful demonstrations, stop arbitrary arrests, and stop repression against unions and unionized workers. [passage omitted including 2-minute break in reception] [end recording]

Funeral Service for Col Jean-Claude Paul Held

FL1011181488 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] The funeral service for the former Dessalines Barracks Commander, Jean-Claude Paul, is being held this morning at 0800 at Sacre Coeur Church in the Turgeau section of Port-au-Prince. Col Paul died last 6 November. Col Paul will be interred at his residence in Fermathe. The Army High Command has let the Paret-/Pierre-Louis Funeral Home take care of the funeral arrangements.

According to an Army spokeman, the autopsy of Jean-Claude Paul's body was done in the presence of his father. The spokesman said that they cannot give out the initial results of the autopsy because they lack some sophisticated laboratory equipment. Also, the initial results are partial results. The spokesman said that the committee of doctors in charge of this dossier will not be able to announce the final results of the autopsy for 1- or 2-months.

Colonel Georges Valcin, chief of the Port-au-Prince police, has announced that the results of the analysis made of the soup that Col Paul ate before he died should be in his hands soon. Furthermore, the chief of police has asked the head of the Department of the Public Prosecutor, Jacaman Charles, to prolong the legal deadline for holding Mireille Delinois and the two other people arrested after Col Paul's death.

Section Chief Fired, Imprisoned in Petit Goave

FL1011182388 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Report by Leogane correspondent Jean Wilfrid Napoleon]

[Excerpts] David Philogene, former section chief of (Opak), received his letter of dismissal as section chief on 4 November. He is no longer in custody at the barracks in Leogane. He is now at the general headquarters of the military district (?of) Petit Goave.

Since General Prosper Avril has stated that he is going to reveal the results of the investigation into the death of Louis Eugene Athis, and since Philogene has been accused of killing Athis, many people are awaiting the results of this investigation. [passage omitted]

Philogene is at present in prison in Petit Goave. [passage omitted]

Cigarette Workers Strike for Better Wages

FL1011151388 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Croele 1400 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Excerpts] We have noticed a shortage of Comme Il Faut cigarettes on the local market for the past 15 days or so, and the merchants have already begun black marketeering with the small amounts of Comme Il Faut cigarettes they have in their possession.

Last week, we went to where these cigarettes are made to find out exactly what happened. The union workers told us they were on strike for a wage increase and an improvement in working conditions. [passage omitted]

The director [not furthr identified] has found it necessary to fire 15 union workers, violating a few paragraphs of the Labor Code in the process.

The employees told us they were ready to go back to work, to the extent that their demands were met. They are asking for a wage increase, for the fired union workers to be rehired, and for supervisor (Roland Chalmers) to be fired.

We tried to contact the director so as to get his opinion on the statements made to us by the workers. The director had his secretary talk to us. The secretary said the director had nothing to do with journalists and couldn't understand why journalists would come to see him. Moreover, the secretary added that if journalists need to know what is going on at Comme Il Faut, they should see the director's lawyer.

We went back again yesterday, to see if a solution to the crisis had been found. When we got there, the door was shut in our faces. The guard was very polite and said: Gentlemen, I have been given strict orders by management not to let you in, not to let any journalists in whatsoever. [passage omitted]

FOS Group Appeals to Social Affairs Minister

FL1011152188 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] The executive committee of the Federation of Workers Trade Unions [Federasyon Ouvriye Sendike], FOS, has asked the social affairs minister to assume his responsibilities before the nation and before Haitian and international workers.

FOS says it has followed with great interest the statements made by the minister regarding respect for union freedoms, protection of union rights, and everyone's right to organize.

FOS informs the minister that it believes in action. FOS says that it has contested the dismissal of 15 union workers at the Comme Il Faut plant and is asking that they be taken back. FOS says that it is waiting to see these measures implemented.

Joseph Senat and Dacius Louisius signed for the committee.

De la Madrid, Salinas Congratulate Bush

PA1011140588 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1310 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Excerpt] The president of the Republic sent U.S. President-elect George Bush a congratulatory message following his election victory. In the text of the message, the president underscores Mexico's desire to maintain, strengthen, and consolidate relations between the United States and Mexico.

President-elect Carlos Salinas de Gortari also sent a congratulatory message to U.S. Vice President George Bush for having won the recent presidential elections in his country. Salinas de Gortari, in his message, said he was sure that in the coming years the friendship and cooperation that have traditionally united Mexico and the United States will be expanded within a climate of respect and dialogue. [passage omitted]

President-Elect Salinas To Visit Guatemala

PA1011193988 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1830 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 10 Nov (REUTER)—President-elect Carlos Salinas de Gortari will travel to Guatemala tomorrow to meet with President Vinicio Cerezo in what is Salinas' first trip abroad since the 6 July elections.

During his 11-hour stay in the Guatemalan capital, Salinas will hold two meetings with Cerezo—one private and another with their respective advisors, the office of the president-elect announced here today.

Even though there is no official agenda for the talks, Guatemalan Ambassador to Mexico Antonio Pallares told reporters that the meeting is bound to include the Central American conflict, cooperation programs, and the refugee situation.

More than 40,000 Guatemalans—mostly peasants who fled the violent clashes between the Army and leftist guerrillas at the beginning of the decade—are living in camps near the joint border of the two countries. [passage omitted]

Sepulveda Addresses Senate on Foreign Policy

PA1111222788 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1955 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Report by Judith Alamo]

[Text] Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor today said President Miguel de la Madrid's foreign policy throughout his 6 years in office has been based on defense of national sovereignty and promotion of the country's social and economic development. Secretary Sepulveda said this before the Senate, where he also said that in every negotiation carried out by the Mexican Government, the interests of the nation have always been defended:

[Begin recording] Mexico's foreign policy has been and will continue to be a task of patriotism and dignity. [end recording]

Foreign Secretary Sepulveda's speech lasted approximately an hour. Sepulveda said Mexico's relations with the United States have been mature and constructive and have followed an independent policy denoting absolute sovereignty. Sepulveda said there had been times of difficulty and misunderstanding, but these have been overcome with respect for national interests:

[Begin recording] We never turned away from a dialogue and never yielded when our national interests were at stake. We trust today the Mexican Government's perseverance in its relations with the United States, always based on reason and equal cooperation, will be rewarded with a new and more productive era of coexistence. [end recorded]

The Mexican foreign secretary also talked about drug trafficking, describing it as one of the most difficult problems in bilateral relations. He said it is unacceptable using the drug issue or any other issue to exert political pressures, and that as long as the U.S. market's demand for drugs continues, it will be very difficult to destroy that network of crime.

Sepulveda also said it has become necessary for the United States to admit the importance of the Mexican worker in the productive life of that country. Foreign Secretary Sepulveda said the foreign debt is the main obstacle for Latin American development; therefore, it is urgent that new strategies be adopted. The foreign secretary said there are still problems in Central America because there is lack of political will among those who are bent on ruling with backward systems and regional hegemony. He said these powerful obstacles will not be overcome easily; however, he insisted on the need for negotiations.

The question-and-answer session began shortly before noon with a question by Senator Humberto Lugo Gil. Sen Lugo asked about the problems confronted by Mexicans who have illegally crossed the border. Secretary Sepulveda condemned the immigration protectionism practiced by some U.S. authorities.

Before concluding his appearance before the Mexican Senate, Foreign Secretary Sepulveda will hear and answer 14 questions.

Venezuelan Minister Arrives for OLADE Meeting

FL1011211588 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0521 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Mexico City, 9 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Julio Cesar Gil Garcia, Venezuelan energy and mines minister, said today that OPEC is planning to adopt measures to attain a more satisfactory price for oil.

The Venezuelan minister will attend the 19th ministerial meeting of the OLADE. He was interviewed at the Mexico City International Airport where he said that falling oil prices will have no affect whatsoever on the integration of the Latin American energy sector. He also said that the OLADE meeting is being held at a time, in an international context, which is not the most beneficial since the possibilities offer little promise.

Cesar Gil Garcia stressed that his country, a member of the OPEC, has lost around $2 billion and that development programs and projects have had to be postponed, just as other countries have also had to set aside several development programs.

The Venezuelan minister said the participants will attempt to strengthen OLADE's position by converting it into an instrument of cooperation in Latin America.

In conclusion, the minister said that Venezuela hopes that the democratic candidate for the U.S. Presidency will win the elections. Nevertheless, it is hoped that a George Bush victory could be positive in confronting regional problems, he said.

Salinas Receives Ministers

FL1111220288 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0437 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Nov (NOTIMEX)—President-elect Carlos Salinas de Gortari received at his Cracovia offices today the ministers participating in the OLADE annual meeting. During the visit, Joel Domenech, president of the National Energy Commission, spoke on behalf of the participating ministers. He said Mexico is an example of solidarity and will certainly continue making efforts to achieve Latin American unity.

The Cuban official asserted that the goal of the OLADE meeting is to discuss and analyze extensively the best ways to get closer in the field of energy for a better and greater integration, solidarity, and cooperation and to achieve Latin American unity.

He added that the participants of the OLADE meeting will not only discuss energy matters but also the close economic and social ties in the region, especially the unbearable burden the unpayable foreign debt constitutes for our peoples.

Salinas de Gortari expressed his appreciation for the ministers' visit and wished them success at the meeting.

Final Declaration Issued

FL1211163788 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0455 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Mexico City, 11 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Latin America and the Caribbean are confronting the challenge of transforming their economic structure to overcome the obstacles that limit development and the area's incorporation into the world market.

This is stated in the Mexico Declaration adopted by the OLADE ministers and delegation chiefs who attended the energy organization's meeting in Mexico City from 10 to 11 November.

During the closing session of the 19th OLADE ministerial meeting, Panamanian Commerce and Industries Minister Mario A. Rognoni said that the solution to the energy debt of the region demands the coresponsibility of debtors and creditors. On behalf of the ministers participating in the meeting, the Panamanian official stressed that Latin America and the Caribbean have the historic opportunity to act decisively for increased intraregional cooperation. The Latin American and Caribbean energy sector can promote regional cooperation and integration through industrial modernization and by the positive impact of strong intraregional trade, he said.

The Mexico Declaration stressed that area countries have a high potential for development that should be taken advantage of through concerted actions. This would contribute to the autonomy of Latin America and the Caribbean, continues the document.

The unequal distribution of resources in the area creates conditions that complement each other, due to the availability of resources and energy firms, says the document. This could satisfy regional demands, provide income, and create opportunities for joint development, as well as strengthen the area's ability to negotiate, the declaration states. The Mexico Declaration further stresses that Latin America and the Caribbean have the groundwork to promote the development of an energy market, capital goods, and technology and services by using existing complementary energy structures.

The OLADE participants favored developing trade mechanisms, strengthening agreements, developing programs for the rational use of energy, and promoting technological research.

Intraregional cooperation is the way to overcome and correct internal inequalities and minimize the gap with developed countries in order to attain a fair and equal international economic order, says the ministerial declaration.

The foreign debt is an obstacle to the development of Latin America and the Caribbean and presents a number of restrictions to regional cooperation and integration.

The ministerial declaration reaffirms that the foreign debt is unbearable and cannot be paid under the current conditions. The solution to the energy sector's debt problem as part of the global debt, continues the Mexico Declaration, demands an equally responsible dialogue between creditors and debtors.

PRI Deputy Receives Lithuanian Officials

FL1011223988 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1323 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Mexico City, 9 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Relations between Mexico and the Soviet Union have always been friendly, stressed Guadalupe Gomez Maganda upon receiving a delegation of Soviet legislators in the Mexican Chamber of Deputies.

During a meeting held by legislators from the two countries, PRI Deputy Lopez Maganda stressed that this body views with approval the agreements and actions taken by that great nation for peace, disarmament, and democracy in their own country.

The Foreign Relations Commission of the Chamber of Deputies, which is presided over by Gomez Maganda, received the group of Soviet deputies, which is headed by Yuozas Sheris, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of Lithuania, and Rostislav Sergeyev, Soviet ambassador to Mexico.

Gomez Maganda said that one of Mexico's foreign policy principles, which is contained in the general Constitution of the Republic, is the fight for peaceful coexistance between all nations. The Mexican deputy added that actions in favor of disarmament and detente are being shaped. This is why the presence of the Soviet delegation in the legislative palace is a source of joy, said Gomez Maganda.

For his part, Sheris expressed his appreciation for the reception he received and he said that in the short time he has visited Mexico, he has heard only expressions of kindness for his people.

Also present at the meeting were Romoyus Petrauskas, chairman of Lithuania's Presidium of the Society for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, and (Bukrva Eugenio) and (Vladimir Kolesnikov) officials from the Soviet Embassy in Mexico

Soviets To Negotiate Tractor Factory Purchase

PA1111155788 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 7 Nov 88 pp 1, 4

[By Rodolfo Wong]

[Text] Ciudad Sahagun, Hidalgo, 6 Nov.—Soviet businessmen this week will negotiate through a French company the possible purchase of a tractor factory beloging to the National Iron and Steel Company (SIDENA), Gregorio Olvera, director of industrial relations for that consortium, has announced.

He explained that the Soviets plan to build tractors for the Mexican and South American markets.

Olvera said that Soviet industrialists are expected to arrive in this city sometime this week to reach an agreement on the price of this subsidiary and to finalize the purchase. He added that with this sale, SIDENA will dismantle some of its production lines.

Olvera said that other commercial production entities are also for sale, namely Iron and Steel and Special Steel and Motors, among others. However, he added that no purchase offers had yet been received for the companies, and if the companies are not sold this month, they will be auctioned to the highest bidders.

He noted that this sale will definitely be carried out and that fences are already being erected to establish the limits between factories involved in building tractors. Production, he said, would begin soon.

Olvera said that workers' rights at these factories will be fully respected and that the new owners have promised to honor the current collective agreement between the workers and management. The tractor factory of the parastate company has received Soviet technical advice in building the M-310 since former President Luis Echeverria Alvarez's term in office. It also builds the 1100 model with Ford technology, the 1300 model with John Deere technology, and another tractor with Ferguson technology.

The M-310 model, built with Soviet technology, is manufactured at the SIDENA factory. This model was designed with the peasants workers in mind. It is also the lowest-priced tractor built there.

PRI Claims Victory in Tabasco Elections

PA1011231088 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2143 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Villahermosa, Mexico, 10 Nov (DPA)—The official party and the opposition today claimed victory in regional elections held yesterday in the petroleum-producing state of Tabasco amid alleged fraud claims leveled by the Cardenist coalition.

The ruling party maintains that after one-third of the votes have been counted, their candidate for governor, Salvador Neme Castillo, is winning with 81 percent of the vote against 18 percent for his Cardenist rival, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador.

PRI delegate in Tabasco Fernando del Villar said the figures show "a genuine debacle" for the National Democratic Front (FDN), which nominated Lopez and is headed by Cuauhtemoc Cardenas.

Lopez rejected the PRI claim, which he described as "irresponsible," and said the alleged officialist victory is based on "the alteration of documents, expulsion of opposition representatives from polling places, and other irregularities."

According to official reports, the elections in Tabasco, in which PRI members and Cardenists clashed for the first time since the 6 July presidential elections, were held amid a calm atmosphere.

Monterrey Election Preliminary Results Reported

FL1111230588 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0341 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Monterrey, Mexico, 10 Nov (NOTIMEX)—The State Electoral Commission (CEE) has reported the preliminary results of local elections held on 9 November. The Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction Party triumphed in the Bustamante municipality, the right-wing opposition National Action Party (PAN) in San Pedro Garza Garcia, and the ruling PRI won the remaining 49 municipalities.

CEE Chairman Jose Natividad Gonzalez Paras acknowledged that a 76 percent abstentionism was registered during the elections with 400,000 ballots cast compared to 675,000 cast during last July's federal elections.

Despite this, the democratic progress has been notable inasmuch as the PRI obtained 76 percent of the votes, the PAN 19.29 percent, and the left-wing block 3.07, while the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution only obtained .82 percent, added Gonzalez Paras.

Likewise, he asserted that the state government is capable of working in harmony with opposition parties that triumphed in two municipalities.

He explained that the results are subject to confirmation and challenges which will be heard by the electoral disputes tribunal.

PRI Victory in Monterrey

FL1111024288 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0036 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Monterrey, Mexico, 10 Nov (NOTIMEX)—After almost 100 percent of the ballots cast in the 757 voting polls installed in Monterrey were tallied, the ruling PRI has proclaimed victory for its mayoral candidate, Socrates Rizzo Garcia, with a two to one lead over his opponent, Teresa Garica de Madero, from the ultra-right National Action Party [PAN].

After reporting this, Joaquin Contreras Cantu, delegate of the PRI State Executive Committee in Nuevo Leon, explained that Rizzo Garcia obtained 105,880 votes and the PAN candidate got 52,118.

He said that 159,948 Monterrey residents cast their vote yesterday, registering 35 to 45 percent of abstentionism. This figure is similar to the municipal elections held 3 years ago.

Likewise, Contreras Cantu reported that the PRI will challenge 15 polling places in San Pedro Garza Garcia Municipality, in which allegedly the PAN won, because the voting polls were opened late, there were attempts of forced party conversions during the electoral process, and some violence. He added that because of similar reasons, Bustamante municipality will also be challenged, where the National Democratic Front allegedly won.

In a news conference, the PRI state leader announced the preliminary results of the elections in the Municipalities of Allende, Apodaca, Aramberri, Cadereyta, Sabinas Hidalgo, Santa Catarina, and Zaragosa, in which the ruling party obtained 55,169 votes against 13,276 of the opposition.

For his part, Socrates Rizzo Garcia said neither his party nor him will defend a victory that is not totally legitimate, clear, and indisputable.

PAN Reports 'Violent Incidents' in Nuevo Leon

PA1111020488 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0050 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] According to the right-wing National Action Party [PAN], there were some "violent incidents" in northern Mexico's Nuevo Leon State during elections for 51 mayorial positions.

The first unofficial tallies indicate PRI obtained a victory in the majority of the municipalities, while the National Democratic Front won the Bustamante mayorship. As for PAN, it may succeed in Garza, a large district in the mountainous region.

No official reports have been released in the states [of Tabasco and Nuevo Leon] regarding the degree of abstention or possible irregularities.

Costa Rica

Arias Sends Congratulatory Message to Bush

PA1011133988 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] President Oscar Arias Sanchez has extended congratulations to George Bush on his election to the U.S. Presidency. A friend of Costa Rica and an advocate of democracy has been elected President of the United States, the Arias message says. Our nations share many ideals, goals, and ethical values. I am certain that those ties will be strengthened during your administration, the president adds.

Arias Sanchez informs Bush that he is greatly appreciative of the mutual respect, understanding, and personal friendship that has developed between the two men since Bush visited Costa Rica in May 1986.

Your commitment to democracy, peace, and social justice in this region offer a ray of hope to 27 million Central Americans, the Costa Rican president says in his message. The president points out that he and his wife Margarita were Bush's hosts during his visits to Costa Rica. The president wished Bush success in his efforts as the President of the United States.

The message was sent this afternoon to George Bush, the new President of the United States, who has visited Costa Rica on several occasions.

President on 'Regression' of Esquipulas II

PA1311191688 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1543 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Excerpts] San Jose, 13 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—President Oscar Arias has admitted that the Central American governments have reversed the Esquipulas peace process "to the point where we stood before" signing the "Esquipulas II" agreements in August 1987. [passage omitted]

"There has been a notorious lack of political will among several of the actors in the Central American drama," Arias said at the 20th anniversary celebration of the Latin American Center for Democratic Studies [Centro de Estudios Democraticos de America Latina—CEDAL], a Social Democratic International institution based in Costa Rica. [passage omitted]

The Costa Rican president, however, pointed out that despite this regression, the 1st year of the Central American peace plan has been characterized by more dialogue and less violence, and the region has received more economic support from the international community.

"This year," he explained, "many people have been released from jails, there has been more talk about peace than war, and everyone is looking to their hopes and the future."

"I trust that what we failed to do in this 1st year of the peace plan we will do in 1989," Arias said in his speech, which he entitled "We Have Had Enough War."

Salvadoran Ambassador Presents Credentials

PA1011153888 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Summary] Rodolfo Antonio Revelo, the new Salvadoran ambassador to Costa Rica, has presented his credentials to President Oscar Arias Sanchez.

At the presentation ceremony, Revelo said that his government is interested in a new meeting of Central American presidents since this would make it possible to solve many of the region's problems.

Sandinists Reportedly Seize Fishing Boat

PA1111231888 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Excerpts] A missing boat has apparently been taken by the Sandinists to the port of San Juan del Sur, it has been reported. Fabio Marin called our station to report the incident and then filed a report at the Public Security Ministry. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Marin] The boat "Vivian," registration No GPC586, was seized in Costa Rican waters on 9 November. The captain was my brother, Miguel Alberto Marin Cajinas, who was accompanied by Rafael Ali Barrantes and Juanson, or Juan. There are witnesses because there were other boats nearby. Captain Miguel made an SOS call, which was received by Carlos Rodriguez de la Cruz, who heard they were being taken to San Juan. In fact, the boat was seen in San Juan.

[Reporter] What type of boat was it?

[Marin] A small fishing boat. [passage omitted] [end recording]

El Salvador

Duarte Says Bush Aware of Country's Situation

PA1111181588 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 10 Nov 88 p 5

[Text] "I am absolutely sure that we are exercising our sovereignty in our struggle for democracy and freedom," President Jose Napoleon Duarte said yesterday after it was learned that the U.S. Republican Party had won the presidential elections.

He added that it would have been the same if Dukakis had won. "All I can say at this time is that Bush is aware of our situation since we have discussed it many times."

El Salvador will maintain its current policy, "at least while I am president, in the areas of democracy, human rights, and economic reactivation, during the rest of my term," Duarte said.

"I am going to state my country's position to Bush—the same position I expressed to Ambassador Walker and to the AID director before the elections. I told them that regardless of who won the U.S. elections, El Salvador will continue with its current social, economic, and political programs as well as with the electoral process."

Duarte said that he will turn over the goverment in June to whomever is elected president without any resistance. "God willing, I will continue struggling to maintain social reforms, particularly in the areas of politics, human rights, democracy, and political opportunities for the people," he concluded.

Cancer in Remission

PA1111165288 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1437 GMT 11 Nov 88

[By Ricardo Chacon]

[Excerpts] San Salvador, Nov [no date as received]—President Jose Napoleon Duarte, 62, who, after being told he only has 6 months to live, continues to govern with energy and intensity, as if he had definitely licked terminal cancer.

After undergoing intensive chemotherapy sessions—at least two in the United States and one in El Salvador—the Christian Democratic [PDC] president appears to have been "resuscitated," and in the past week has virtually resumed his "customary activities," Eduardo Colindres, private secretary of the presidency, told ACAN-EFE.

Asked about his illness, the president said: "I have cancer, but it is in remission. I am taking care of myself and am following the prescribed medical treatment faithfully."

Duarte's energy has been evident in his inauguration of projects, constant exercising of government tasks, party activities, and in the firmness of his political statements. His activity seems to defy medical wisdom, which in June gave him 6 months to live.

The chemotherapy treatments have left him almost bald. He has lost weight, and those who get close enough see his emaciated face. His voice, character, and energy, however, have not deteriorated, but seemingly have been strengthened.

Duarte participated last week in almost a dozen public events. In some of them, last Saturday, for example, before hundreds of PDC supporters, he delivered a fiery speech against the political rightists.

"As long as I am president, I will veto the reforms that the right tries to introduce," Duarte declared, referring to the modifications made regarding the state coffee monopoly by the Legislative Assembly, which is controlled by the right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA).

Duarte was equally firm before hundreds of peasants who have benefitted from the agrarian reform, whom he told in a loud and clear manner that he would struggle to promote the fundamental socioeconomic policies of his government.

"No matter what happens," he said, "if they want to stage a coup d'etat, let them. If they want to get rid of me, let them. If they want to imprison me, let them. But I shall defend the workers, the poor, and the peasants." [passage omitted]

The Salvadoran president vowed to turn over the Presidency on 1 June 1989 to his successor, who will be elected by direct popular vote in March 1989.

Political Leaders Comment on Bush Victory

PA1211022688 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 10 Nov 88 pp 3,25

[Excerpts] Several of the country's political groups gave favorable opinions yesterday about the victory of U.S. Republican Presidential candidate George Bush.

Dr Rafael Moran Castaneda, presidential candidate for the National Conciliation Party, said: "U.S. support for Central American peace is important, but Salvadorans must take matters into their own hands to seek peace." [passage omitted]

"I believe Bush will continue backing the contras, and I am under the impression he will continue to seek more social aid. This is important for Salvadorans because leaving the contras without support would have a negative effect on Salvadorans, especially on the day-to-day peace efforts we all make," Moran Casteneda said. [passage omitted]

Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA] Deputy Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa Perez said: "It is satisfying to observe the Americans' political culture." [passage omitted]

"It is an electoral process that teaches Salvadorans a lesson in civics. I cannot, however, give further opinions on U.S. domestic politics because it is something very American, and as a Salvadoran, I would not like them to come and give their opinions about us," Ochoa Perez added.

Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes, deputy for the Authentic Christian Movement and former Christian Democratic Party [PDC] member, said: "I would think George

Bush's foreign policy will not change substantially from President Ronald Reagan's. He will give it his own style, I believe, but there will be no great change." [passage omitted]

PDC Deputy Ludovico Samayoa Scrich said: "Salvadorans are sure Bush will continue supporting the democratization process we are pledged to." [passage omitted]

PDC presidential candidate Dr Fidel Chavez Mena said George Bush's victory proves "Our people are on a direct route toward democratization."

Chavez Mena said Bush's sweeping victory in the U.S. elections is very personally satisfying, adding that this was a legitimate victory for democracy. [passage omitted]

Chavez Mena added: "We Salvadorans are on the way to perfecting the democratic system. We look with interest at the Americans' highly civic behavior."

"Now it is time for us Salvadorans to follow this example of civic behavior since we are just 4 months from our own presidential elections. Personally, the times I have had the opportunity of talking to Mr Bush, I have learned of the ideals he upholds. As a friend of his, I can say that for Latin Americans, particularly Central Americans, Mr Bush's victory is reason for great satisfaction."

Chavez Mena finally asked the groups involved in national politics, especially the leaders, to keep high standards in the upcoming campaign. He ended by saying: "We must all understand that insults and slander do not lead us anywhere."

"In ARENA, we shall not allow direct U.S. intervention in El Salvador's politics as was done with the PDC. National sovereignty must be rescued."

San Salvador Mayor Dr Armando Calderon Sol said this when interviewed at his office on whether he will allow direct U.S. intervention like the PDC has, if he were to win next year's presidential elections. [passage omitted]

"As a party, we are clear that in El Salvador we must have our nationality and sovereignty respected. The PDC and President Duarte have been weak in this and have allowed U.S. meddling." [passage omitted]

He added: "U.S. aid should be reoriented to benefit all Salvadorans. It should be aimed mainly at producing goods, services, and riches—not just aid for consumers. The Salvadoran people must learn to produce and not just to expect handouts, which distorts us as a people and changes our way of being."

"At ARENA, we shall work and fight for that sovereignty and will not allow direct U.S. meddling in the country's domestic affairs," the mayor concluded.

Gen Vides Comments on Army Operations

PA1011033988 San Salvador TCS Television in Spanish 1215 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Interview with Defense Minister General Carlos Vides Casanova by unidentified reporters —live in the studio]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] Dear listeners, the minister has arrived and we welcome him and thank him for his participation in this segment. Good morning.

[Vides] Good morning.

[Reporter] Violence has increased recently and the people are extremely worried. What are the Armed Forces doing to guarantee the people's welfare?

[Vides] The Salvadoran people's concern about increased terrorist violence is understandable. We must bear in mind that terrorist acts always escalate when important events are expected. This does not happen only in our country; we recently saw it in Seoul, before the Olympics, when groups resorted to violence to provoke the authorities and prevent an international event from taking place.

An OAS meeting is scheduled to take place in this country in a few days. The event is being threatened by a number of acts, particularly terrorist acts in the San Benito, Max Diaz, Escalon, and San Francisco neighborhoods. The terrorists believe the people will protest against the OAS meeting if they cause terror in those areas.

We are expecting foreign ministers from Latin America, Central America, and the United States, whom the terrorists believe will call off the meeting because of the situation in the country. That is the main reason for the increased violence.

You have seen that we have increased patrol operations recently. Patrols are also being carried out around the volcanoes near San Salvador. Security measures are also being implemented on the periphery of San Salvador and around the meeting venue, but I cannot give you the details. There is also a complete security plan for the officials who will participate in the OAS meeting.

We are ready to reduce the possibility of an incident to a minimum. However, I have always been honest and I must admit there is always the possibility of sabotage or a terrorist act. This does not necessarily mean that (?it will affect) the security measures in the area of the meeting. For example, a blackout can be caused by cutting off an electric line in a distant area.

[Reporter] General, the FMLN's attacks have not been so overwhelming in the past, yet now those attacks are attaining considerable military success. Do the FMLN's military actions mean it is superior to the Armed Forces?

[Vides] We cannot conceive their military superiority under any circumstances. I have noticed the guerrilla leaders are currently visiting different countries, particularly the Contadora Group members. They are trying to gain support for reading a statement at the OAS meeting, and they are also trying to pressure the Salvadoran Government into negotiating with them. This proves the rebels have failed militarily, and that failure has been brought about by our large-scale operations in northern Chalatenango Department and Usulutan Department, in the east of the country.

The rebels have tried to bring the war to urban areas. However, the plans of subversive groups—I showed you the documents on their Fire Plan in another meeting—did not include the type of terrorist acts that we have seen lately. Instead, they planned a general uprising and strike before the elections.

This proves, as I said, that the subversives could not develop their Fire Plan. They have carried out several acts but they have failed to achieve the expected results. This is like having a cinema show a movie every day with no-one turning up to see it.

The subversives are trying to carry out this type of event right now to give the impression of military strength, so the OAS will pass a resolution recommending negotiation to solve the conflict.

Furthermore, the rebels are trying to discredit the democratic process and boycott our next elections because some people are demoralized by terrorism and lack the will to participate in politics, which makes the election results unsatisfactory.

[Reporter] You have said violence increases before an important event. What plans or activities do you expect this week—that you can tell us about—with all the speculation about an increase in terrorism in our cities?

[Vides] We are expecting several subversive acts, based on information we have. First of all, there will be demonstrations in the streets of San Salvador and there are plans to provoke violence. A demonstration has been scheduled for 15 November, plus other protests and strikes have been planned around this date.

There are also plans to carry out acts of sabotage throughout the country, and we are patrolling to minimize the danger. There are plans to attack a military installation and to sabotage electricity lines.

We also have information that the subversives will try to intimidate the people into staying away from the international fair, which is another event scheduled for this period.

[Reporter] Do you believe it is prudent to hold the Latin American foreign ministers meeting here at the same time as the international fair? In view of the country's situation, are the Armed Forces prepared to counter any violent threat to our national security, for example a demonstration, provocation, or other confrontation in which they might become involved and be seen by the Latin American foreign ministers?

[Vides] Well, this is a very difficult challenge we must face. I would like to say that we are capable of guaranteeing security throughout the country, but this does not mean we can prevent car bombs or other acts of terrorism because it is very difficult to do so. There are countries with the same kinds of problems we have and they have better security, for example, Lebanon, France, the FRG, and others. However, the Salvadoran people should rest assured because the Armed Forces are working to guarantee the security of all Salvadorans and to reduce the chances of these acts to a minimum. This is a challenge we must face and we will see how things go in the next few days.

[Reporter] In the last few days, the guerrillas have launched attacks against mayors in the different towns of El Salvador. We have already learned about the assassination of several mayors. What are the Armed Forces doing to give them special protection?

[Vides] We have an appointment in the next few days. There we will learn about requests for the mayors' security. I believe this is one of the most unfortunate incidents. We would also like to hear the views of human rights organizations. During last Sunday's homily, we heard the Church protest these actions because not only were the human rights of the assassinated mayors violated, but also the human rights of thousands of Salvadorans who voted to elect these mayors and governors, etcetera. I believe the Salvadoran people should reject these acts; otherwise, in the future there will be no honest people wanting to serve as mayors. I believe public servants should be protected, and if we receive requests to guarantee their security, we will provide it to mayors and to all those government employees needing such security.

[Reporter] The electoral campaign is scheduled to begin in the next few days. What role will the Armed Forces play throughout this campaign? We recall that in the past, elections were difficult to hold in areas of conflict, for example?

[Vides] That is correct. We have already prepared a plan to provide security to the electoral process, because, as you noted, it comprises several stages. One of these stages will be similar to the one we had last year. We will conduct military operations throughout the national territory to eliminate possible centers of guerrilla subversion. The next stage comes once the electoral event approaches and we have to guarantee security to all voting centers. We have to provide both long-term and near-term security, just as I have explained to you in the past. Finally, we have to provide security during the electoral process. I believe the most important thing about the Armed Forces' attitude is to reiterate our

commitment to remain completely separated from politics. I want to tell you that the Armed Forces are aware of the need to support the democratic process. We believe we are doing it, not only because we believe in the democratic process, but because it is important for the survival of the Armed Forces and because we have proved that if we stay away from politics, we can get the support and respect of all political parties. If the Armed Forces intervene in favor of the ruling party or in favor of any other party, it would mean the Army could be divided at a given time and that once the elections are over, we could play a role if there are confrontations among the political parties. The Armed Forces will not participate in politics. It is a commitment I have made as defense minister, and you can rest assured that any military chief who does not follow this order will be removed from the Armed Forces. I am almost sure we will not have this kind of problem, because after talking to the other officers, I have seen that they are firmly committed to supporting the democratic process. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Let us now talk again about the human rights situation and the death squads. The security corps have consistently been accused of belonging to the death squads. Moreover, on human rights, the Armed Forces were recently accused of killing peasants in San Vicente. These accusations have been learned abroad. What impact has this had on the Armed Forces? How are the investigations going?

[Vides] Whenever we get an accusation that any member of the Armed Forces has violated human rights or even that he has been involved in a theft, etc, we conduct an investigation. If that person is found guilty, he is discharged and sent to civilian courts.

Last year, we sent approximately 137 cases to civilian courts. Moreover, we are still preparing normal rules of operation and procedures to improve respect for human rights. I want to tell you that we believe we are close to achieving respect for human rights.

In addition, regarding the case of the 10 peasants who died in San Francisco, near San Sebastian, there are several facts. The Armed Forces have a an ongoing (?investigation) regarding the 30 soldiers and 2 officers. The Arbishopric's Legal Assistance Office is also conducting an investigation. There is another investigation by the prosecutor's office, and another by the civil judge. There is even a military commission's investigation ordered by the president to try to find the truth. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] General, the last question. Yesterday, we learned the U.S. election results? Do you expect any changes in U.S. policy toward the Salvadoran Armed Forces?

[Vides] I was asked a similar question a few days ago. I said then that perhaps one of the most important things we—the government as well as the Armed Forces—have achieved is to have the Salvadoran plan accepted by Republicans as well as Democrats. Our plan contains two main points I have often stressed: support for the democratic process and respect for human rights. If these two points continue to improve each day, you can be as certain as President Bush's victory that had Dukakis won, the government would have had good prospects of getting aid. Moreover, it looks as if President-elect Bush is going to have problems with the U.S. House and Senate, where the majority, I am almost cetain, will be Democratic. However, if we follow the democratic process and continue struggling to defend the same principles the U.S. people are defending, we can increase our chances of meriting economic and military aid. I do not anticipate significant changes in U.S. strategy, a thought expressed in every word the U.S. ambassador said yesterday; he said he does not think there will be significant changes in aid to El Salvador.

[Reporter] Thank you very much, Mr Minister. Because of all the events taking place and because there is actually some uncertainty when you talk to people on the street, they tell you: Things will get very bad next week; look what they [terrorists] are doing; they are setting off bombs every day. As head of the country's public security, is there any message you would like to convey before we end the interview?

[Vides] Yes, thank you. Once again I want to tell the Salvadoran people that we have never lied to them. I will not tell people there will be no more terrorist actions or there will be no more bombs. We are going to make our best effort to keep these kind of terrorist actions to a minimum. The terrorists have the capacity to perpetrate such actions, but we have the ability to keep these actions to a minimum. I want to tell the Salvadoran people that strengthening the determination to defend our country as long as it is necessary is more important than anticipating when this struggle will be over. To defend this country in which we have so much faith, all Salvadorans must demonstrate persistent and timeless resistance against the subversives' timeless strategy. We must defend our freedom and democracy. We must tell Salvadoran people they are not alone. They have the Armed Forces' support, and they have this support because we have never felt that we are alone, because all Salvadorans—professionals, industrialists, businessmen, the media, workers—have dug their trenches to help us defend democracy. Such courageous people will never lose their freedom. In fact, these violent incidents occurring in the streets serve to encourage Salvadorans to value freedom so a Marxist government will never come to subdue a nation accustomed to enjoying freedom of expression, freedom of movement, and freedom to elect its own government. Finally, I want to tell Salvadorans that they must have faith because we will do all we can to keep to a minimum any violent or terrorist action [words indistinct].

Parties Oppose Electoral Code Reform Proposal
PA1011171688 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Leaders of various political parties this morning stated their opposition to electoral code reforms proposed by ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance]. The reforms will be voted on at a plenary meeting on Thursday. The opposed parties of course have different points of view on the electoral code and on the reforms ARENA wants to introduce.

The Democratic Convergence [CD] and the Renovation Action Party believe the reforms would pave the way for election fraud and would impede the work of the Central Elections Council, something that could leave the executive branch without a head of government.

[Begin CD President Guillermo Ungo recording] We are very concerned with this proposal. It would facilitate election fraud. The proposal is antidemocratic. It would place state organizations, especially the executive branch, in a state of chaos because a minority would take precedence over the majority. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Guatemala

Cerezo on Bush Election, C.A. Summit
PA1011153688 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1420 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Guatemala, 10 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—President Vinicio Cerezo said today that the time is ripe to hold the Central American presidential "summit", and to ask new U.S. President George Bush to state his position on the problems of the region.

The five Central American presidents will meet on 25 and 26 November in San Salvador to make a "self-appraisal" of the progress achieved by their countries since signing the regional peace plan known as Esquipulas II in August 1987, Cerezo explained.

"I personally am a friend of George Bush. I have met with him several times, and he is a person one can work with in search of peace for Central America," he added. [passage omitted]

The Christian Democratic president also said that he sent congratulatory messages to George Bush and Michael Dukakis, "because both were at the head of their country's democratic process."

The Guatemalan Government, in a document delivered to ACAN-EFE, stated that the elections held in the United States constituted "the expression of authentic democracy."

"Guatemala," the official document added, "maintains excellent relations with the Democratic and Republican Party, whose presidential candidate (George Bush) has become President-elect by popular vote."

The Cerezo administration will maintain the relations of "mutual friendship and respect" with the United States during the new presidential term and expresses its conviction that the United States will consider the opinions of the area presidents in solving their problems.

Government To Join in Reconciliation Talks
PA1011175188 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1530 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 8 Nov (ACAN - EFE)—Bishop Rodolfo Quezada, president of the National Reconciliation Commission (CNR), today reported that the national dialogue that began on Monday is different from previous ones "because the government itself has decided to participate."

The CNR called for a dialogue to seek a negotiated solution to Guatemala's social, political, and economic problems in compliance with the Esquipulas II regional peace plan, which was signed by the Central American presidents in August 1987.

"The government has talked with the private sector, certain labor groups, and others within the so-called social pact. But the government will be just another actor in this national dialogue," stated Quezada, bishop of the eastern city of Zacapa.

Quezada said the talks, to include more than 100 organizations, want to exclude no one, but he indicated that the participants must meet the minimum conditions of "legality, representativeness, and legitimacy."

The commission rejected the guerrilla groups' participation in the dialogue because they do not meet the condition of "legality."

Quezada asserted that he advocates the rebels' participation in the dialogue, as they have requested, but there is a security problem, not to mention the legality problem.

President Vinicio Cerezo's Christian Democratic Government and the Armed Forces do not recognize the URNG rebels as a legitimate party.

Quezada said the CNR is trying to create an atmosphere of trust with the dialogue so all Guatemalan sectors may talk about the main problems in the country.

Honduras

Azcona Comments on Economy, Bush, Contras

PA1311143588 Tegucigalpa La Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1735 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Interview with President Jose Azcona Hoyo by correspondent Allan Roy Arthur Lelo; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Lelo] [Passage indistinct] regarding the deficit?

[Azcona] I think it has been said that there is a severe inflationary spiral. This is not true. I can tell you that from 31 October of last year government spending increased only 0.7 percent. We cannot reduce spending further or be more rigorous in terms of cutting the government's regular spending. I do not think Don Jorge [not further identified] has these figures on hand and that is why he said what he did. There is a process [2-second break in reception] slightly larger than in previous years, but it has not reached the point where it cannot be controlled.

[Lelo] How would you describe our country's current economic situation?

[Azcona] We are a country that is growing. There is a great demand for dollars, and a lot of money is spent. Perhaps people spend too much, and there is a lot of pressure on the dollar. The months between November and January will be the most critical, but as soon as the coffee dollars and dollars from other exports begin to come in, we will undoubtedly see a stronger lempira. [passage omitted]

[Lelo] Has this affected the staple prices?

[Azcona] There are some staple products that have gone up, but this is also due to supply and demand factors. For example, the price of sugar should not be higher than 55 centavos a pound. We will issue specific and clear instructions so that all the necessary sugar will be given to (Enasupo) so that (Enasupo) will continue to maintain the price of 55 centavos a pound for the public. There is no reason for the price of sugar to go up. This coming year the sugar mills of Honduras will register extraordinary profits—yes, extraordinary profits. They will have surpluses. They will have a larger sugar quota abroad, and they will have an internal consumption subsidy. There is no reason, therefore, for the price of sugar to go up. Much of what is happening is the result of speculation because everybody is talking. [passage omitted]

[Lelo] Mr President, it has been reported that you are very interested in talking with Mr George Bush, the newly elected President.

[Azcona] Yes, we will talk to him. We have talked to him many times before. [2-second break in reception] We had the opportunity to have dinner at his home on one occasion. We were with him during the inauguration of President Cerezo in Guatemala. We were with him during the inauguration of President Arias in Costa Rica. Bush came here during my inauguration. We have talked several times, and now that he is President-elect, we are even more interested in talking to him.

[Lelo] You have hinted in statements that you will resolve the problem of the counterrevolution. Have you asked Mr Bush to resolve that problem?

[Azcona] We have requested that several times, urging that a solution be found to the problem [2-second break in reception] the Central American presidents in San Salvador. We hope President Ortega will want to provide a truly democratic opening in Nicaragua because [2-second break in reception] because [words indistinct] continues to be the problem with Nicaragua.

[Lelo] Mr President, some analysts claim that there is runaway inflation.

[Azcona] I do not think it is runaway, absolutely not. Our inflation rate is the lowest in all of Latin America. We have a much lower inflation than any other country, including neighboring countries, such as Costa Rica for example. Of course, we are excluding Nicaragua and are only referring to those countries that can claim a degree of normalcy, such as Costa Rica. [passage omitted]

[Lelo] Do you still believe that there will not be any major change in U.S. foreign policy in regard to security and the economy in Central America, particularly in our country?

[Azcona] President Bush is different than Reagan. I cannot say that he will continue to follow Reagan's same policy. What I do think is that in regard to Honduras, we will continue to maintain good relations. We also believe that the United States will continue to help this country.

[Lelo] [question indistinct]

[Azcona] I do not know. I am not in a position to analyze personalities. I think Mr Bush is a very experienced man. I would describe him as a good person, a good man, and I think his experience will serve him well in governing that great country and in maintaining good relations with the rest of the world.

[Lelo] How do you interpet Mr Bush's remark that the contras will be a priority issue on his agenda?

[Azcona] This is very gratifying to us, because it would have been bad if he had said he was not interested [2-second break in reception] that we have and which must be resolved.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Azcona] I do not know, perhaps.

Contreras Comments on Peace Force, Other Issues

PA1211232088 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1120 GMT 12 Nov 88

[News conference with Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras and unidentified reporters on 11 November in Tegucigalpa—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] I have two questions. Have the FRG, Spain, and Canada agreed to create an international peace force? Considering how the UN Security Council is composed, and the fact that the United States is a key member, do you think the Honduran initiative [to form an international peace force] will be approved?

[Lopez] Those are very definite questions. In view of the complex situation they refer to, there are no simple answers. However, I can tell you that the reactions we have received from the Canadian, Spanish, and German Governments have been favorable. I must clarify that this initiative is not meant to take the place of Esquipulas II; it is meant to help make Esquipulas II more effective. In our—the five [Central American] governments—opinion, Esquipulas II is the real solution to political and security problems. The Honduran initiative is aimed at, and limited to, dealing with one of those security problems, which is the use of the border area by rebel groups, and the problems resulting from the use of the Honduran border area by armed groups from a neighboring country.

Installing a peace force at the Honduran border with the participation of the countries mentioned is a long and complex process because it involves domestic political aspects in those countries, and also some risk for the troops that would eventually participate. The FRG, specifically, faces some constitutional problems in deploying forces outside its territory. We were aware of this when we made the proposal; however, the idea was to chose three countries that the five Central American countries would support. Therefore, those countries were mentioned, knowing of course that it would be necessary to consult with them first. What I can tell you is that during my visit, FRG Foreign Minister Genscher expressed a willingness to participate in the initiative within a European context that may help achieve peace in Central America and make the cooperation that they may give our countries in other areas—economic, technical, and social development—more effective.

[Reporter] Mr Foreign Minister: Is there concern that the plans of U.S. President-elect George Bush to continue helping the contras will foil Honduran plans to form this international peace force?

[Lopez] It is still too early to talk about that; that is a hypothetical question. In the first place, I understand the U.S. President-elect merely talked about abstract support; that is, without giving any details of the nature of the support to be given to the Nicaraguan rebels. Therefore, I can not answer your question because I cannot establish right now if in the immediate future military aid for the counterrevolutionaries will be approved.

[Reporter] Was the Foreign Ministry consulted about the controversial proposal to establish a dry canal to link Puerto Cortes with El Salvador by land? What is your opinion on this situation?

[Lopez] Yes, the Foreign Ministry was consulted on the negotiations that were being conducted between the Salvadoran and Honduran Governments. We said we had no objections, simply because the agreement offers advantages to both countries. We feel it does not in any way harm Honduran interests. On the contrary, it could even be said it might help the detente that has developed between the two states following the 1969 armed conflict.

On the other hand, the Foreign Ministry feels the Honduran concept of an overall and simultaneous solution to the problems left pending after the 1969 war is covered by the general peace treaty.

We have observed that as far as the borders are concerned, there was a solution procedure but it failed [4-second break in reception] and it is being complied with and included in a resolution [3-second break in reception]. However, your question concerns [4-second break in reception], as spokesman of the Armed Forces of Honduras. The Foreign Ministry feels it is important and must be consulted with the Armed Forces, inasmuch as the Armed Forces is a state institution and its opinion concerning security matters should be very seriously taken into consideration.

Report on European Tour

PA0911224788 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1120 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Interview with Eugenio Castro, Foreign Ministry official, by Jose Rolando Sarmiento at the Foreign Ministry in Tegucigalpa; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Sarmiento] Have there been reports from Bonn about Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras' European tour?

[Castro] Yes, we have received a report from our embassy in the FRG regarding the recent meeting between Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras and FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. During the meeting, they discussed the Honduran proposal to the United Nations on 4 October for the creation of an international peace force to guard the Honduran borders from armed insurgents of neighboring countries, the mining of its territory, and armed incursions by neighboring armies. According to the report, the foreign minister explained to the FRG foreign minister the nature and scope of the Honduran proposal, which falls within the framework of Esquipulas II and seeks to

revitalize this political process that was agreed upon 14-months ago and has not yet solved the regional crisis. They also discussed topics dealing with bilateral cooperation, which is an expression of the democratic solidarity between the FRG and Honduras. They also talked about the upcoming meeting of foreign ministers of the EEC, the Contadora Group, and Central America, which will be held in San Pedro Sula.

[Sarmiento] In the past few years, EEC cooperation with the Central American countries has been very significant and this will be discussed in the San Pedro Sula meeting.

[Castro] This is very important because these types of meetings are helping to implement the European countries' economic aid and political cooperation with the Central American countries. The foreign ministers of the 12 EEC countries will be in San Pedro Sula in February. These are links that began some years ago and which remain strong and are becoming even more consolidated to obtain more European economic cooperation with our countries.

[Sarmiento] When will the Honduran people learn the results of the foreign minister's European tour?

[Castro] The foreign minister will eventually provide details about these meetings. He will provide further details. He has also met with Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, to whom he also explained the Honduran proposal. We will have to wait until Foreign Minister Lopez Contreras returns to the country so he can give us more specific details about the talks he held with Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the pope, and Andreotti. I think the Honduran Government's initiative to have the foreign minister personally explain to the FRG and Italian foreign ministers, the Vatican secretary of state, and the pope this Honduran proposal for an international peace force on our border is very significant.

[Sarmiento] What about the meeting of Central American foreign ministers in San Salvador?

[Castro] The meeting of foreign ministers scheduled to be held on the 12th in San Salvador has now been moved to the 14th. After Foreign Minister Lopez Contreras returns, he will be in the country for just a few days because he has to go to the foreign ministers meeting in San Salvador. This is the annual OAS General Assembly that all OAS foreign ministers must attend. I understand the San Salvador foreign ministers meeting will be held on 14 November.

Former Commander Admits U.S. Exerted Pressure
PA1011174788 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Jessica Mas report]

[Text] In statements for Radio America yesterday, former Armed Forces Commander Walter Lopez Reyes admitted having been pressured by U.S. officials during his tenure in that high-ranking post between 1983 and 1984.

[Begin Lopez recording] Yes, I have discussed this, and I believe the national and international press noticed this at that time. A National Security Council envoy tried to exert the needed amount of pressure to weaken our positions. This individual, I believe he is well known, is Mr James McFarland.

He was so frustrated at failing to successfully carry out his duties that I believe he even tried to commit suicide in the United States. However, in a way, these are sporadic cases. What is important is that we make ourselves respected and in turn respect other people.

I believe our country has on several occasions assumed this dignified position. At times, it has to be strong because coercion can assume different forms. One of them, economic coercion, has hurt us the most throughout our history. Poor countries must endure many abnormal situations.

However, I believe those are temporary situations. We must look ahead and at the future of our country with some optimism. We must not be defeated by frustration. We must overcome weaknesses, move forward, and not hope all solutions will come from abroad. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

Ortega Urges Bush To Normalize Relations
PA1311182788 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1628 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Managua, 13 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—President Daniel Ortega has urged U.S. President-elect George Bush to normalize relations between the two countries in direct negotiations and to suspend aid to the contras.

Ortega made the appeal to Bush in statements he made this week after Bush's victory in Tuesday's election became known and in a letter to Bush that was published today in the newspaper BARRICADA, the official mouthpiece of the ruling Sandinist front.

Ortega proposed that Bush withdraw U.S. troops from Central America to demonstrate his desire to negotiate.

Ortega recognized that Bush obtained an overwhelming victory in the U.S. elections over Democrat Michael Dukakis and asked Bush to hold direct talks with Nicaragua when he takes office (in January).

He advised Bush to abandon Ronald Reagan's policy toward Nicaragua because, he says, "it has practically failed," and warned that it would be a "mistake" to continue arming, training, and financing the contras.

The Nicaraguan president said he is prepared to discuss security matters with the United States but not Nicaragua's domestic policy, which, he says, he never agreed to do with the Reagan administration.

"I greet you and express Nicaragua's desire to work for the normalization of relations between our countries," Ortega's letter to Bush, which was made public by BARRICADA today, said.

Ortega invited Bush to work together to "make this noble desire for peace a reality."

"This is Nicaragua's desire, and it is our understanding that it is also the desire of the majority of the U.S. people," he said.

Ortega reminded Bush of the last time they shook hands in the Brazilian capital in March 1985 in the presence of world leaders. According to Ortega, those present "applauded" his remarks regarding "the desire that peace prevail between our two nations."

During his election campaign, George Bush said that his policy would be a continuation of Reagan's policy, without abrupt deviations, although he said there would be modifications in style and substance. [passage omitted]

Cites 'Desire for Peace'

PA1311230988 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2235 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Report by Alister Doyle]

[Excerpts] Managua, 13 Nov (REUTER)—President Daniel Ortega has written to U.S. President-elect George Bush and invited him to negotiate an end to the war with the Washington-backed contras, the official newspaper BARRICADA reported today.

"On learning the results of the 8 November elections, allow me to greet you and express the will of Nicaragua to work to normalize relations between our countries," Ortega stated in a brief letter.

"I invite you to work together so we can convert this noble desire for peace into reality," he added.

"I recall when we shook hands in the Brazilian Congress in March 1985 that the Latin American and world leaders gathered there broke out in applause, clearly expressing the desire that peace should prevail between our two nations," Ortega stated in the letter, which was dated yesterday.

"This is the will of Nicaragua, and we understand it is also the will of the vast majority of the U.S. people," Ortega concluded. [passage omitted]

Ortega's letter did not make any specific proposals. He has said that he will ask Bush for the total withdrawal of foreign troops and military advisers from Central America as part of the agreement. [passage omitted]

Bayardo Arce Comments on U.S. Elections

PA1111042488 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Nov 88 pp 1, 4

[Excerpts] The FSLN last night commemorated its 27th anniversary and the 12th anniversary of the killing in combat of chief of the revolution Commander Carlos Fonseca Amador. The highest FSLN decoration, the Carlos Fonseca Amador Order, was awarded to 12 outstanding militants for fulfilling their tasks before and after the Sandinist triumph.

During the main speech at the solemn ceremony held at Olof Palme Convention Center, Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce made a symbolic presentation to Carlos Fonseca of a report on the FSLN actions to face the hurricane. [passage omitted]

The Sandinist leader commented on yesterday's U.S. elections, saying that "with or without the good-neighbor policy, with or without the big-stick policy, with or without low-intensity warfare, the revolution is here to stay—With Carlos Fonseca heading it, with the FSLN heading the people, with the FSLN National Directorate heading the revolution." [passage omitted]

BARRICADA Scores LA PRENSA Editorial

PA1011170688 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 8 Nov 88 pp 1, 5

[Editorial: "On the Verge of Moral Smallness"]

[Text] The U.S. Government's moral smallness regarding the recent and tragic storm—by mocking the seriousness of the damage and inviting other countries to block international aid—can only be surpassed by the meanness of the colonist rightists residing in Nicaragua. It would only be sufficient to read yesterday's editorial in LA PRENSA. Without concealing its servile attitude toward the Reagan administration, the editorial criticizes the Cuban Government's generous donation of 1,000 homes for the Bluefields victims.

The newspaper's tirade is loathsome, but not surprising, because the people know when the rightists are obeying Washington's orders. It is impossible, however, for the rightists, who lack moral authority and whose hypocrisy was laid bare forever by the hurricane's winds, to disparage the splendid Cuban gesture.

Cuba has sincerely extended its hand at a time Nicaragua most needed help. And even the lowliest Nicaraguan has been able to see this, regardless of his political views. On the contrary, they, the true colonialists, have only shown Nicaragua and the international community their eagerness to take advantage of the people's grief for political purposes.

The disparagement against Cuba, therefore, falls of its own weight. After all, the only sin attributable to the Cuban aid is that it has again revealed the demagoguery

of the U.S. Government and its spokesmen in Managua. Neither Fidel nor his people, however, can be blamed for the rightists' moral ruin, which they have willingly incurred in these difficult times.

Ortega Comments

PA1011170888 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] President Daniel Ortega Saavedra has said LA PRENSA's policy harms the interests of the people of Bluefields. LA PRENSA has spoken against the Cuban offer to supply of 1,000 houses.

[Begin Ortega recording] As for the creation of that other committee [not further specified] aimed at complementing the efforts of the national committee, it is totally politically motivated. It is made up of political organizations known for their opposition to the Nicaraguan Government. We do not see how they can it help. At a time when there is no room for division, there is an attempt to divide the nation. At at time when we must work in harmony, there is an attempt to break that harmony. The National Emergency Committee [Comite Nacional de Emergencia], which was set up many years ago to deal with natural disasters, is comprised of all the country's social, political, and economic organizations. It has not excluded anyone. Some of those organizations or groups have excluded themselves owing to their own political attitude against the Government of Nicaragua and because they are an instrument of U.S. policy. This is part of the U.S. strategy of seeking ways to harm the the Nicaraguan people's efforts at a time when unity is called for. U.S. strategy inspires the creation of organizations of this sort. In other words, the hand of the CIA, the U.S. State Department, or U.S. policy is behind the creation of that sort of group. It is likewise behind the LA PRENSA editorial. The editorial was written at the U.S. Embassy. It was aimed at creating the conditions for an invasion against Nicaragua. The editorial tries to reject the housing for the people of Bluefields, that is, the houses Cuba is offering the people of Bluefields. The editorial invites the U.S. Government to invade Nicaragua. The pretext would be the same used in Grenada, where Cuba had workers building an airport. Grenada needed the airport. I was in Grenada. Grenada needed that airport to promote tourism, which is its main source of foreign exchange. Then came the Yankee invasion. The United States used that airport to crush the people of Grenada. Now, the people of Grenada are oppressed.

And so, this LA PRENSA editorial was written by the U.S. Embassy. It harms the interests of the Nicaraguan people and national security. Therefore, we hope LA PRENSA is more careful in its attitude and does not lend itself as an instrument of the U.S. Government's policy of intervention. I am sure the people of Bluefields will condemn the U.S. Government's stance reflected in LA PRENSA's editorial. The people of Bluefields need concrete housing. If a Bluefields resident has been forced to build a wooden home, it is because he is poor. If we were to ask a Nicaraguan living in a hut or wooden home, where do you prefer to live: in a hut, a wooden home, or a concrete home? He will certainly reply: I prefer to live in a concrete home. So-called folklore, which is how some want to regard poverty, does not provide security to the family living in that hut or modest home. Meanwhile, LA PRENSA's owners are comfortable in their concrete homes, made of U.S. or European design. They care very little that the people of Bluefields, who experienced this tragedy, are experiencing hardships. When the Cuban Government offers 1,000 houses, and 300 workers to build them, the newspaper does not regard this as positive. Instead, it tries to manipulate this situation, because LA PRENSA is an instrument that repeats U.S. policy. [end recording]

Soviet Labor Unions Sending Aid To Victims

PA1011201088 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Soviet Ambassador to Nicaragua Valeriy Nikolayenko has announced that Soviet labor unions and the Soviet Government will be sending more aid for the victims of the hurricane. The ambassador said that a Soviet ship bringing 11,000 tons of rice will be arriving in Nicaragua under the terms of a cooperation agreement between his country and the Central American nation.

Ambassador Nikolayenko stated that Soviet aid for Nicaragua will continue, thus negating rumors spread by media sources sympathetic to the United States.

The Soviet representative also spoke about the suspension of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan as a result of violations of the Geneva treaties by the U.S. Government and the puppet Pakistan regime. Nikolayenko said that if those two governments insist on arming the Afghan counterrevolutionary forces, Soviet troops will remain in that Asian country.

[Begin Nikolayenko recording] The Soviet Union is sending emergency aid to Nicaragua. This aid includes tents, food, medicine, clothes, blankets, and other items. This is a donation from Soviet labor unions to the Nicaraguan people. Two ships are coming with aid. One of the ships will arrive on 10 November in San Juan del Sur. It is bringing 11,000 tons of rice. A second ship has already left Leningrad with aid from various mass organizations that took up collections from among the people. This ship will arrive at the port in Corinto at a later date. [end recording]

Ortega Addresses C.A. Parliament Seminar

PA1111193188 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1820 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] President Daniel Ortega spoke this morning during the opening session of a seminar on the Central American Parliament. Speaking on behalf of the Nicaraguan Government, President Ortega called for just international relations based on mutual respect. During the

event, which was held at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center, President Ortega reiterated Nicaragua's willingness to abide by the agreement signed by the Central American presidents on 7 August 1987 in Guatemala. President Ortega said that the interventionist U.S. policy has hindered the peace agreements.

Representatives of the five Central American parliaments, leaders of political parties, a delegate of the European Parliament, and a delegate of the Latin American Parliament, are attending the seminar on the Central American Parliament. The work sessions are being held at the Olof Palme Convention Center.

Ortega Supports Democratic Convergence Document
PA1011214688 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1820 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra on the occasion of visit by unidentified Salvadoran Democratic Convergence members, date and place not given; recorded, broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...Salvadoran society. In other words, it is not an artificial convergence, created abroad, as attempted in the case of Nicaragua where movements have been organized in Washington, designed by the State Department and the CIA, to sell the idea there is an opposition to the Nicaraguan Government.

We are talking here of a natural convergence, one that is vital to the survival of peace-loving Salvadorans, and which groups together more than 1 million people. This is what the convergence represents: these forces grouped together and organized, with the active and constructive participation of the Church, working for peace. In other words, in the case of El Salvador we see the church fighting alongside the forces of sovereignty, self-determination, independence, and peace for the Salvadoran people.

The opposite is true in Nicaragua, where the church is not doing that. Instead, here we have a church hierarchy in alliance with the U.S. Government's mercenary plan. For this reason, we have accepted the final document of the 1988 national debate, organized by the San Salvador archdiocese. We have told our comrades of our full support for their efforts for peace in El Salvador. We will do all we can to support their goal, which has emerged from the masses, the working people, the organized groups, the students, the teachers, the trade unions, the industrial and manufacturing workers, the government employees, in other words from all the social sectors, the Salvadoran clergy, and other religious groups from different denominations. This document deserves our full support.

Ortega Congratulates Angola on Independence Day
PA1211224188 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] President Daniel Ortega Saavedra has officially saluted the 13th anniversary of the independence and creation of the People's Republic of Angola in a letter to Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos. On behalf of the Nicaraguan people and government, Ortega sincerely congratulated Angola for the stances it has adopted since 1975 as a result of the correct leadership of the people and party led by President dos Santos.

President Ortega reiterated our unshaken solidarity with the Frontline States and other independent neighboring countries that daily suffer destabilization, aggression, and state terrorism by the racist South African Government. He adds his best wishes for the prosperity of the Angolan people and the strengthening of the ties that bind Angola and Nicaragua.

Tunnermann on Shultz 'Brief' OAS Stay
PA1411005388 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Carlos Tunnermann, Nicaraguan ambassador to the OAS, has criticized U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz for scheduling a brief appearance at the OAS General Assembly and not staying to hear what Latin America has to say. According to Tunnermann, the important issue facing the OAS assembly is the need to adopt a new agreement on the OAS headquarters. This issue originated with my expulsion from the United States, Tunnermann noted. He added that the current agreement on privileges and immunity is not adequate.

Panama

Solis Palma Invites Bush Administration To Talk
PA1011234488 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2112 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Report on statements made by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, in Los Santos Province, Panama, on 10 November]

[Text] Los Santos, Panama, 10 Nov (ACAN - EFE)—President Manuel Solis Palms said today Panama is prepared to "initiate any talks" with the U.S. Administration, in the wake of George Bush's election as the new President of the United States.

In an interview with ACAN-EFE, Solis said the election of George Bush "is an opportunity for the new U.S. Government to review U.S.-Panamanian relations, without obstacles."

Panama is prepared to "initiate any talks," on the basis of "clear respect for our people's dignity and status as a free and sovereign country," the Panamanian president said.

Solis was speaking in Los Santos, 250 km from the capital, where he participated with General Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of the Panama Defense Forces, in ceremonies marking Panama's independence from Spain.

On the other hand, Noriega, Panama's "strongman," declined to comment on the U.S. elections when asked by the many newsmen covering the event.

Relations between Panama and the United States have been at their lowest since the U.S. Government decided not to recognize Solis Palma as president and imposed economic sanctions that have had a serious effect on the Panamanian economy.

Solis Palma expressed the hope that Bush, who "was not the author of the present U.S. policy toward Panama," would "take advantage of this opportunity to improve relations between the two countries."

The president said Bush should make "harmony with Panama one of the essential points of his policy." Panama has been "a traditional friend of the United States," said Solis Palma.

"In any case," Solis added, "I do not wish to guarantee anything, because the possibility of negotiations will depend on Mr Bush."

Referring to the harsh economic sanctions applied by the White House against Panama since the beginning of the year, the Panamanian president said, "The last 9 months have demonstrated the error of the U.S. policy."

"If its objective was to replace the Panamanian Government with one more in line with its interests, it has failed and is not likely to succeed" Solis said.

"On the other hand," he added, "the policy has caused enormous harm to the Panamanian people and may have a permanent effect on their feelings toward the United States."

When asked about Panama's relations with the rest of Latin America, the president explained that Latin America "supports Panama in the sense that it would not tolerate U.S. intervention."

However, Solis added that, "As a result of U.S. propaganda, we are accused of violating human rights and freedom of expression, although this criticism has not been placed in the true context of Panama's situation.

This, said Solis, has led Latin American countries "often to take inappropriate positions concerning us," particularly, "the failure to readmit Panama to the Group of 8," from which Panama was excluded after the ouster of the previous president and the appointment of Solis Palma as minister in charge of the Presidency.

Solis said these reservations "are secondary in relation to the open support for the premise that there should be no U.S. intervention, not to mention military aggression, in Panama's internal affairs."

Comments on U.S. Relations

PA1211005388 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2329 GMT 11 Nov 88

["Statements" by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, to unidentified local reporters during ceremony to lay cornerstone of Hindu Association of Panama's future headquarters; in Panama City on 11 November—recorded]

[Text] [Solis Palma] So far, speaking [with U.S. President-elect George Bush] has not been up to Panama. The rift, as well as any rapprochement, will depend entirely on the position taken by the U.S. Government. I have said we are in no way unwilling to sit down and talk and seek avenues to achieve harmony and friendship, within very clear parameters: within a framework of absolute respect for the dignity of peoples and our status as a free, sovereign, and independent country with the right to choose our own internal and international paths. Within those parameters, we will sit down with the United States, which we recognize as one of the countries that has historically maintained a relationship with our country, with the Panamanian people. Therefore, we are not the ones who have refused to sit down and talk. We have demanded, and will always continue to demand, the respect due a free, sovereign, and independent nation, instead of being treated like a colony, because we are not a colony, and we will not be one.

[Reporter] However, Mr President, the United States believes there should be internal changes here in Panama—such as the restitution of political and civil freedoms—for there to be an optimal framework for negotiations to solve the Panamanian crisis. What do you think of this?

[Solis Palma] When a country believes another country does not fulfill the former's rules, or that the conditions do not exist for relations to exist, it can choose not to have those relations. What a foreign country cannot decide is which government is legitimate and which government is not legitimate, because that is a barefaced act of intervention in the internal problems of another country. That is unacceptable.

We could have many things to say about the present elections in the United States, but those are internal problems that do not concern us. We could discuss the actions of other Latin American countries or other friendly countries in the world, but we do not get involved in the way each country handles its own affairs and projects its own democracy.

Some media are demanding certain conditions of the government but do not demand of themselves the most primary condition: to be Panamanian, above all. The media do not demand this. It is very worrisome when the media put themselves into the position of loving U.S. masters or masters of another country, and when they allow themselves the luxury of criticizing or of failing to

understand the very roots of Panamanian nationality. However, they are concerned about abuse of freedom of expression. I would like to hear the media say: We will establish standards of conduct of decency, respect, dignity, and decorum toward Panamanian society. When I hear them say this, they will begin to receive some degree of my respect, which they have been losing.

Commentator Optimistic Over Bush Presidency

PA1111221488 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Commentary by Luis Manuel Martinez]

[Text] We continue our motion through time, until the day when Panama's future will be decided. We are separated from 7 May 1989 by 179 days. Those who think they can toy with the idea of absenteeism or who obey Yankee imperialism's orders by refusing to particpate in a pure electoral process whose structures have been lawfully created will learn a bitter lesson when the time comes for them to react, and they realize the train is passing them by. They will be unable to get on. Thus, absenteeism is entering the stage of greatest decay.

Talking about elections, we must refer to the topic of the day: the 41st President. Last night, George Bush became the 41st President of the United States.

Bush has another record. It is the first time a former CIA director is able to become a White House resident by winning an election. In addition, Mr Bush, along with Mr Nixon, is the man who becomes a U.S. President with the greatest experience. In addition to having been former CIA director, Bush was U.S. ambassador to the PRC, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, and member of the House of Representatives for the State of Texas. All this experience in public life gives Bush a sense of maturity and pragmatism.

We made an prediction 26 days ago for 9 November on this station. Do you remember it? Our predictions were confirmed. George Bush has been elected U.S. President. Many people were doubtful. I was never doubtful. Every time I saw the Massachusetts robot's face, with his series of mechanical movements, with his emotionless speeches, and with his technocratic approach. [sentence as heard] Politics is passion; politics is sensibility; and Michael Dukakis always lacked those characteristics.

The elections are over. Within the traditional dichotomy of U.S. politics, the White House will have a Republican resident and Congress will be dominated by Democrats. It is a way of sharing power so it does not lie in the hands of a single person, which complicates U.S. international politics so much. However, George Bush has a great advantage. Throughout the years, he has witnessed Reagan's failures in Lebanon, Nicaragua, Libya, Haiti, and in Panama. He learned an important lesson: the limitations of U.S. power. Interventionism at the end of the 20th century is not the same interventionism of the Theodore Roosevelt and big-stick era. All this lies ahead in the pragmatic outlook for the new President.

This morning, after reviewing his 426 electoral votes against the few obtained by Mr Dukakis, 112, Bush appointed in Houston, Texas, James Baker the new secretary of state. Baker was chief of Reagan's trio, along with Edwin Meese and Michael Deaver. Baker represented Reagan's team of advisers during the President's first term in office. It was a happy term for Reagan, in which he conducted matters carefully, thanks to Baker's ability to negotiate with Congress. Later, Baker was replaced in his post as White House chief by Mr Donald Regan, who led the President to disaster with his praetorian behavior. Baker went on to become secretary of the Treasury, where he had the good vision of requesting from private banks more than $29 billion in aid to Latin America because the United States is interested in maintaining development programs in our countries. Private banks did not pay attention to Baker, and his plan failed. He has good vision and is capable of understanding problems. He is no revolutionary, but is no caveman either. He has handled the situation in Panama, where the Americans are not paying their taxes, with a pragmatic touch.

Therefore, if we take all these elements into account and if we understand that the new President will be George Bush and not a continuation of Reagan—in politics, no one wants to be a follower; everyone wants to implement one's own policy and make a name for oneself in the historic period in which one must rule, especially in the most important executive position in modern times—we will see that George Bush, according to his first news conference, will seek negotiations above anything else.

These negotiations will begin in Honduras, where Bush will try to find a solution to the contras who are living in crowded camps there without any option because the Democratic-controlled Congress will not approve any more funds for the contras.

As for Panama, I believe Bush very well knows the Panamanian reality from the inside. Many measures taken against this country did not have his support, but he was in no position to question them. Therefore, a new stage is opened. We do not want to be overly optimistic, but a simple change of figure and the presence of James Baker as secretary of state are symptoms that may be slightly favorable for this country, which has been humiliated and suffocated by Reagan's arrogance.

Ritter Reiterates Stand on Dialogue With U.S.

PA1211035388 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Interview with Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter by unidentified reporter; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ritter] We should not expect any major or dramatic changes in U.S. foreign policy. However, the methods that have been used for directing relations with

Panama might change. The methods are undoubtedly mistaken, because they were based on the false premises of a nonexistant government or the recognition of a nonexistant government. Those changes can occur. I am not saying the change is imminent or that it is for better or for worse. I am only saying there will be changes in U.S. foreign policy, which is natural.

Whether the policy will be hardened or not, I think that this is only speculation at this time. There is no indication yet that the U.S. stand concerning Panama will be either softened or hardened. Panama's attitude concerning the United States continues unchanged. We want to normalize relations with the United States based on mutual respect and a respect for the self-determination and sovereignty of both countries.

[Reporter] Will Panama try to seek a dialogue with the United States?

[Ritter] Panama has always been willing to establish a dialogue with the United States based on those premises. The U.S. Government has repeatedly said it does not recognize the Government of Panama; therefore, it has not wanted to attend a dialogue. Thus, our stand is the same one we have reiterated. We are willing to attend a dialogue based on mutual respect between the two countries.

[Announcer] Concerning the OAS meeting in El Salvador, Foreign Minister Ritter said the following:

[Ritter] It is very important that Panama attend this meeting, which is a meeting of the Latin American countries, to point out the Panamanian Government's stand concerning the measures the United States has imposed in an arbitrary and illegal manner that violates, among other things, the OAS Charter.

Panama To Denounce U.S. Policy at OAS Meeting

PA1211163888 Havana International Service in Spanish 1406 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter has said in Panama City that his country will denounce the United States' arbitrary and illegally imposed policy against Panama at the next OAS meeting.

Ritter told the press that Panama's attendance at this event, which is scheduled to begin next Monday in San Salvador, is vital in order to state his government's position regarding those measures that, among other things, violate the OAS Charter.

Ritter expressed his skepticism regarding the possibility that U.S. President-elect George Bush will change the policy that Ronald Reagan has followed so far against Panama.

Since the end of last year, the U.S. Government has adopted a series of coercive measures against Panama which turned into a total boycott in April.

UN Delegate Condemns U.S. 'Aggression'

PA1111210588 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1645 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Panama has condemned U.S. economic and political aggression and alerted the international community to the irreversible damage caused by these U.S. measures.

During a speech before the Second Economic and Financial Commission of the UN General Assembly, delegate Jose Stoute also rejected the policies of force against any country, which prevent economic reactivation and seriously jeopardize social security programs and the right to development.

Stoute said that this U.S. attitude has prevented our country from harmoniously resuming its normal commercial and financial activities and from continuing the so-called development process.

However, we reiterate our determination to resist, not only U.S. economic and political aggression, but also any attempt to limit the legitimacy of Panamanian jurisdiction and the efforts conducted by the Panamanian people and government to face this aggression, the delegate concluded.

Former Diplomat: Noriega Plans Electoral Fraud

PA1211201088 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] The former Panamanian ambassador to Venezuela, Diogenes de la Rosa, has said in Caracas that the current Panamanian regime, headed by [General Manuel Antonio] Noriega, is preparing an electoral fraud for next year's elections, while seeking international support to remain in power until 1990.

The former diplomat, who was his country's ambassador during Romul Bethancourt's administration, explained that surveys indicate that 80 percent of Panamanians repudiate the Noriega regime, blaming the general for the 40-percent inflation rate and the 80-percent decline in economic activity.

De la Rosa added that if Noriega stays in power, he will achieve his goal of militarizing the canal with 40,000 men, thereby gaining absolute control over domestic affairs.

Regarding the general's problems with the United States, De la Rosa pointed out that they should be solved without affecting the safety and stability of the people.

He also stated that, as part of his effort to stay in power, Noriega sent four of his personal advisors to Venezuela in search of international support, and, above all, to contact Democratic Action Party presidential candidate Carlos Andres Perez.

He said that the Venezuelan presidential elections, to be held on 4 December, will clearly have repercussions in Panama, mostly because of Venezuela's influence in the region.

Argentina

Caputo Acknowledges Upcoming Talks With UK

PY1311224288 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2122 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 13 Nov (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has acknowledged that Argentina and Great Britain are on the eve of their first diplomatic meeting since the 1982 Malvinas war, and he indicated that talks could possibly be resumed within the next few weeks when, in his role as president of the UNGA, he meets with the chief of Britain's mission to the United Nations.

The meeting with British Ambassador Crispin Tickell, which will take place in New York, will be the first diplomatic contact to explore matters of common interest for the two nations, which is considered significant because of the war between them. [passage omitted]

Regarding Argentina's role on the international scene, Caputo stressed that the country certainly needs the world; we grew from 1880 until 1930 because we found an adequate way to play our role in the world. [No quotation marks as received] [passage omitted]

Authorities Discover 'Arsenal' in Raids

PY1211171788 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2024 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Buenos Aires (DYN)—Nearly 2 tons of ammunition and explosives were found today during an operation ordered by San Isidro Federal Court Judge Alberto Piotti [name as received]. The raids were part of an investigation to uncover a group responsible for stealing goods from state enterprises.

The operation—by two court officials from Piotti's office—was carried out at a warehouse at 1849 Maipu Street in San Fernando. This is the same city in which authorities previously raided three warehouses owned by Ricardo Marchesse and found arms and stolen government property. Marchesse remains at large.

The court officials who participated in today's raid did not want to identify the owner of the warehouse, but it is quite possible that it is Marchesse.

Today the police and the court officials found "more than 2 tons of explosives and ammunition." Our source said they found "a very significant amount" of submachinegun ammunition.

Yesterday, authorities found ammunition for a weapon that is not yet in use by the Argentine Army: the FARA (Argentine Republic Assault Rifle) [Fusil de Asalto Republica Argentina], a weapon similar to M-16 used by the U.S. Army.

The ammunition is reportedly very new, something that drew great attention from the authorities.

Piotti yesterday raided Marchesse's home. In it authorities also found large caliber ammunition.

The operation, which began at 1600 and ended 3 hours later, was conducted by San Isidro Federal Court Deputy Secretaries Alejandro Guillot and Nicolas Troilo, who were investigating the theft of goods owned by ENTEL [National Telecommunications Enterprise] when they made the surprising discovery of the ammunition and weapons.

It was reported that Marchesse, who lived in a house next to the warehouse that was raided on Wednesday, may already have a police record for possession of weapons and for stealing copper bars from railway cars parked at the Retiro railway station.

The court officials found a Ford F-150 truck, a Ford F-250 truck, and a 4-wheel-drive jeep with a supercharged engine, all equipped with communication systems, in the backyard of Marchesse's house. Inside the house they seized several large rifles, Itaca shotguns, Mauser rifles, 45-caliber and 9-mm police pistols, other revolvers, clips for automatic weapons, and military uniforms—including camouflage coats and pants and an Army jacket bearing the emblem of first assistant sergeant. The confiscated items constitute a true arsenal.

The police also seized telephones, electronic equipment, and large quantity of ammunition, which were taken to the Don Torcuato Third Precinct in a truck belonging to the Buenos Aires infantry garrison.

Army To Investigate

PY1411115388 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] Yesterday the Army ordered an investigation to determine how the thousands of rounds of ammunition, mortar shells, and explosives, discovered by federal justice personnel in various operations, were obtained. It is believed that it may be a very large clandestine commercial operation.

The main question in military circles is how, when, and from where the ammunition and explosives were obtained.

A high Army source said that there is still no indication as to whether this arsenal is the result of "years of stocking" or if it was only recently obtained.

The same source also revealed that Federal Judge Daniel Piotti [name as published], who is in charge of the investigation, has called on Army specialists to identify the ammunition and explosives.

The source explained that the 7.65-caliber ammunition for Mauser rifles "is generally used by the Federal Police and not by the Army." He added that "the Army buys a few rounds for officers who participate in tournaments."

He also admitted that in addition to the investigation being conducted by the federal court, the Army is also conducting a "military investigation" to determine how this large amount of ammunition and explosives was obtained.

Bolivia

President, Foreign Minister Congratulate Bush

PY1011200288 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] The Bolivian Government hopes that U.S.-Bolivian relations will be strengthened and it expresses confidence that the two parties will continue to have mutually beneficial relations.

Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro and Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez have sent messages congratulating U.S. President-elect George Bush.

Paz Estenssoro's message reads: On behalf of my government and the Bolivian people, I wish to convey to you my sincere congratulations on your victory in the 8 November presidential elections. I trust that when you assume the presidency next January the links of friendship between our two nations will be strengthened to our mutual benefit.

Foreign Minister Bedregal Gutierrez has sent the following message:

I have the pleasure of addressing Your Excellency to state that the exercise of democracy by the U.S. people on 8 November is an example that strengthens democracy all over the world.

I would like to express my wishes that our traditional bonds of friendship and cooperation will continue to grow.

I reiterate to Your Excellency my highest esteem.

Government Asks U.S. To Increase Military Aid

PY1011181888 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0639 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] La Paz, 9 Nov (EFE)—The Bolivian Government has asked the United States to increase the aid currently being given to the Bolivian Armed Forces, Defense Minister Alfonso Revollo reported today.

U.S. financial assistance to the Bolivian Army currently amounts to $5 million, Revollo added.

La Paz authorities, however, are requesting another $25 million. A formal request was handed to General Robert Herres, vice chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, when he visited La Paz, the defense minister said.

Minister Revollo also said that his ministry will submit a document to Congress requesting congressional permission for U.S. military personnel and experts to come to the country to conduct "civic activities" tasks in various Bolivian districts.

Meanwhile, the opposition questioned the official version on the arrival of U.S. troops and asserted that leftist congressmen will vote against it in Congress.

The U.S. military forces intend to build a permanent base in Bolivia, Socialist Deputy Roger Cortez has said. Cortez commented that something similar occurred in 1986, when 170 soldiers and 13 gunships came to Bolivia and remained for 4 months.

U.S. To Grant $25 Million

PY1011195988 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] The U.S. Armed Forces will grant Bolivia $25 million for the modernization of the Bolivian Armed Forces as part of an assistance program for Bolivia.

Defense Minister Alfonso Revollo said that the visit of Robert Herres, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was very positive for our country because Herres promised to supply the aforementioned amount to help inprove the actions of the Bolivian Armed Forces.

Revollo added that the U.S. Armed Forces will step up their cooperation with their Bolivian counterpart, especially in the technical field.

The Bolivian Government will seek congressional approvement for U.S. special engineering troops to undertake development tasks in several Bolivian regions.

Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal and Defense Minister Alfonso Revollo have said that the executive branch is seeking congressional authorization to allow the U.S. military to conduct operations on Bolivian territory.

Bedregal said that there is a desire to let U.S. military engineers improve the infrastructure facilities in Potosi Department. He added that the U.S. military's main concern will be the airport, where they are planning to do same work on one of the hills near the airport that hinders landings and take-offs.

The defense minister made it clear that the U.S. troops will carry out tasks in several regions in eastern Bolivia and the plateau, where they will try to apply their know-how to conduct specific development tasks.

Rebollo said: We want to comply with the law; we have therefore asked for congressional approval. He made it clear that the U.S. military presence will benefit the country. So far, the number of U.S. soldiers who will come to Bolivia and how long they will remain in our country is unknown.

Brazil

Steel Mill 'Occupation' Ends; 5 Workers Killed

PY1011182088 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Metalworkers at the National Iron and Steel Company [CSN] mill in Volta Redonda, Rio de Janeiro State, have clashed with Army and military police troops. During the incident 5 people were killed and 45 injured. The conflict between 18,000 striking metalworkers and the soldiers started last night and lasted until early this morning.

The troops were called on to evict 3,000 metalworkers who have been occupying the CSN mill since 7 November. The striking workers reacted to the approaching troops with stones, iron bars, and incendiary bombs.

[Begin recorded report from Volta Redonda] At 1900 last night, the military police and Army personnel clashed with the striking CSN workers in the streets of downtown Volta Redonda. People started to run, and several were detained. Many cars were damaged during the conflict.

Inside the CSN mill, the metalworkers clashed with the Army soldiers and the military police men. There was a shootout. The Army used armored cars to destroy small barricades and then concentrated its efforts to evict the workers occupying the steel mill, one of the most important parts of the CSN compound.

At 2100 there was a truce, and press men could get closer to the steel mill building where the CSN steel is smelted. We could then see that two tractors were forming a barricade and that a big tin vessel was burning behind the barricade. Some firemen who were attempting to put out the fire were being stoned.

Inside the steel mill, which was dark, hundreds of striking metalworkers were ready to repel an Army invasion.

The firemen managed to put out the fire, but the striking workers hurled an incendiary bomb at a truck which was also part of the barricade. The firemen came again and put out the fire.

The military troops maintained their positions for the rest of the night until early in the morning, but there were no more incidents. They did arrest a few metalworkers who came out of the steel mill building, and assisted those who had been injured.

At sunrise a spokesman for the striking workers came out to talk to Colonel Jansen, commander of the Army troops, to prevent further clashes.

At 0600 today, the situation was unchanged; hundreds of striking workers were still inside the steel mill building. Outside, military police and Army personnel waited for the end of the talks.

At 0800 the workers decided to leave the steel mill, and they dismantled the tractor and truck barricade. The 3-day occupation was over. [end recording]

A few minutes ago, another clash took place in front of the Volta Redonda town hall, where the striking CSN workers were holding a meeting. A truck full of soldiers passed in front of the town hall and the workers stoned it. The military men shot at the mob, but no injuries have been reported.

William Fernandez da Silva, Valmir Freitas Monteiro, Vicente da Silva, and Vitor Adriani, four of the dead metalworkers, have already been identified.

The Volta Redonda mayor decreed an official mourning and all stores were closed down.

The Military Command of the East General Staff is holding a meeting with Commander General Gilberto Lima to analyze the situation of the CSN in Volta Redonda. The East Military Command reported that several military men were injured during the conflicts early this morning.

'Guerrilla Operation' Alleged

PY1111030088 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Roberto Cardoso Alves, minister of industry and commerce, today said that the Army will maintain control of the National Iron and Steel Company [CSN] mill as long as the threat of damage to public property or threat of public disorders exists.

According to the minister, the property damages and the cost of repairs needed to begin operating the mill are enormous. Cardoso Alves said the mill loses $5 million every day it does not operate.

General Jose Luiz Lopez da Silva, commander of the First Motorized Infantry Brigade, said the occupation of the mill, which he coordinated, was ordered by the Army minister to preserve public order and property. Gen da Silva, commander of the brigade headquartered in Petropolis, regretted the death of the three CSN workers killed during clashes with his troops.

Gen da Silva said workers started the violence that engulfed the mill. He added that the price that had to be paid was high, but order had to be restored at all cost. Da Silva said the intervention was ordered by the East Military Command on direct orders from the Army minister.

The climate in Volta Redonda is still tense. Workers are returning from the burial of Valmir Freitas Monteiro and will hold a general assembly in a few minutes in front of the Municipal Prefecture, which decreed an official 3-day mourning period. Stores remained closed while workers met in the streets to discuss the death of the three metalworkers.

The president of the mill regretted the violence and the death of the three workers. He admitted that negotiations with workers will be more difficult in the future. According to Juvenal Osorio, the CSN made a mistake when it did not take the workers' demands seriously. The 22,000 CSN metalworkers have been on strike since 7 November.

The Army Public Relations Office released a document explaining the incidents at Volta Redonda, in Rio de Janeiro State.

According to the note, everybody recognizes that the right to strike is guaranteed in the Constitution. However, the note says, the strike at Volta Redonda did not follow the normal pattern. The occupation of the facilities by force and the aggressive actions of workers created a climate of disorder that ended with serious damages to public property.

The supposition that the strike only involved labor issues was abandoned when the troops, who in previous occasions were able to dislodge workers without any problems, violently clashed with workers.

Strike leaders, whose objectives were to provoke a confrontation and to challenge the authorities instead of working for their labor demands by legal means, instead created a climate of hostility by inciting workers to fulfill their personal objective: a violent confrontation.

According to the Army minister, the violence instigated and executed by these workers began when the troops were verbally abused upon arrival. The violence increased when workers in well-coordinated actions began throwing rocks, using iron bars, throwing Molotov cocktails, and firing their weapons. This was a true urban guerrilla operation.

The communique says that in order to fulfill their mission to defend public property, as ordered by the government in a clear and legal manner, the troops saw the need to call for reinforcements, including the help of the military police. The troops were forced to defend themselves from the aggression and to repel it by use of violent means.

The Army Ministry believes that the victims of the confrontation are in fact victims of professional hoodlums who incited workers and contrived and executed the first part of a plan, the results of which we have seen in Volta Redonda.

The second part of the plan will be the exploitation of the incidents with malicious rumors and the presentation of the provokers as leaders who will denounce the violence that they themselves promoted, provoked, and planned on.

The incidents could have been prevented only if those who provoked the confrontation had sought a democratic solution to their demands, a solution that included respect for the law and public property.

Brazil cannot tolerate public disorders. This is not the path the majority of Brazilians prefer. It is the wrong path and the government and the nation are determined to prevent any movement in that direction.

Everyone can be sure that the Army will fulfill its duty with appropriate action, no matter how hard or difficult the mission, to guarantee law and order.

The official note is signed by General Jose Ary Lacombe, chief of the Public Relations Office.

Justice Minister Comments

PY1011235988 Rio de Janiero Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2150 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Speech by Justice Minister Paulo Brossard on the Volta Redonda steel mill strike and ensuing clashes, from Brasilia on 10 November—recorded]

[Text] Brazilians: A very serious incident in the last few hours has compelled me to come here to speak to you. No right can be exercised in an absolute way. On the contrary, the law calls the unlimited exercise of a right an abuse of that right. This abuse is condemned by the law.

The common good is the border limiting the exercise of all rights. As any other right, the right to strike cannot be exercised against society without restraints.

In Volta Redonda, striking workers and people from outside the city forced they way into a mill, or, better said, took the National Iron and Steel Company [CSN] mill by force. These people also tried to prevent other workers who were not striking from entering the mill, thus violating their right to work.

Electric power was then cut, and panic set in. Workers grabbed iron bars and crude spears as weapons and spread traps throughout the mill where acid bottles were stored. In sum, a lot of violence occurred, both inside and outside the mill. It was a true rebellion in the name of the right to strike.

A legal strike excludes violence. When violence is used during a strike the legal right ends. The violence at the mill and against the facilities of the CSN mill was confronted by the violence of the forces sent to defend the national interests represented by the steel complex.

The result of the confrontation, the mad confrontation at Volta Redonda, was that a number of people were killed and wounded, a fact deeply regretted by all.

No one can ignore that some extremist sectors are behind the scenes because these incidents pave the way for their undemocratic ideals. The killing of a worker is an effective way to ignite the fury of society. This is the painful result of the violence at Volta Redonda, violence incited by strikers and people foreign to the mill and to the city.

I must say that the Federal Police have already initiated an inquest to determine individual responsibilities for these illegal acts. The government has been extremely tolerant during the transition period, and it has been so during the stage of adjustment to the new constitutional order. That tolerance has gone to the extreme and is being confused as weakness. Very well: Despite all that tolerance, the government cannot and will not allow under any condition the abuses by radical groups to prevail. Within the bounds of the law, whatever it may cost, the government will defend society as it must.

From the promulgation of the new Constitution on 5 October to the municipal elections that will be held on 15 November, abuses are becoming too frequent an issue, partucularly in the public sector. They have a violent trend, thus revealing a strongly partisan tone, but not merely partisan by any means. The trend reveals a broader and deeper scope. There are evidences that a plan is under way to drive Brazil into chaos by impairing the country's electricity complex, so as to progressively undermine the democratic authority and the democratic state. I do not need to say that the damage such a madness might cause is simply incalculable. This damage will be both of a material and personal character.

The seriousness of this fact makes it necessary to leave caution aside and to make it public and to bring it to light, as I am now doing, so that the nation can see and sense the dangerous roads down which they are trying to take it. It seems that some have already forgotten what happened to our country in recent years as the result of madness and violence. Something similar happened yesterday. However, I can assert that the government will not allow the constitutional order, painfully attained by great efforts and with the high hopes of the Brazilian people, to be destroyed.

Sarney Comments on Clash

PY1111153688 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] In his weekly program "Chatting by the Radio," President Jose Sarney today expressed regret for the violence in Volta Redonda which resulted in the deaths of five striking metalworkers.

According to President Sarney, his administration has never sought confrontation; solutions have always been negotiated. He said his administration has always felt an obligation to preserve order and public property, thus ensuring the nation's right to live in peace.

President Sarney explained that since the beginning of his term in office, there has been a movement willing to use force to modify the institutions and the democratic administration.

[Begin Sarney recording] From my very first day in office, there has unquestionably been a movement in the country that has not been defending the national interests. They have misunderstood the national situation and tried to intimidate and force the government to modify the institutions, the democratic system, and the path that must be taken to lead the country toward democracy.

The path I have chosen, which suits my temperament, is the one that leads toward the consolidation of the transition to democracy. [end recording]

According to President Sarney, those who take advantage of innocent people and manipulate them to achieve secret political goals are the enemies of freedom.

Sarney said the government will not be intimidated by the threats of those who want to disrupt the order.

[Begin recording] A government that has been ensuring freedom cannot be intimidated by attempts to disrupt order that leave families in mourning, create despair, leave children parentless, and result in hatred.

Everyone must realize, because I cannot hide my feelings, that I am deeply disturbed by the degree of nonsense that led to the Volta Redonda incidents. I am sure that such incidents will not occur again; the workers know that their rights will be respected and that there is therefore no need for violence.

This country has a Labor Justice Court, and its decisions are respected and complied with. [end recording]

President Sarney urged all Brazilians to control their passions and to fight together to overcome hardship.

[Later in the same broadcast, Brasilia Radio Nacional carries the following correction: "Our station wants to correct a bit of news mistakenly broadcast: During the incidents at the National Iron and Steel Company mill in Volta Redonda, only three workers were killed; not five, as we broadcast a few minutes ago."]

Worker Buried; CSN Changes Noted

PY1111183788 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Carlos Barroso Vicente, one of the three workers killed during a clash with soldiers, was buried in Volta Redonda this morning.

The workers gathered in front of the gates of the National Iron and Steel Company [CSN] mill very early this morning and did not leave until about 0900, to join the burial procession.

The Army is still occupying the mill, and military police control the CSN gates. Several stores in downtown Volta Redonda are still closed.

CSN has reported that the federal government has released the URP [Price Reference Unit] for the month of July, which will be paid with the salary for the month of November.

CSN has reported that the workers' salaries in November will thus be increased by 42.85 percent. They also reported that the 6-hour shift has been approved and will take effect within 90 days. During the implementation of this new system, CSN has reported, the workers will receive a monthly bonus of 60 percent.

Visiting British Official Cited on Falklands

PY1011120988 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0659 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Brasilia, 9 Nov (EFE)—Timothy Eggar, British under secretary for Foreign Affairs, today admitted in Brasilia that Argentina and the United Kingdom are maintaining indirect contacts about fishing in the area of the Malvinas Islands.

Eggar, who is responsible for his country's relations with Latin America, is currently making a 10-day visit to Brazil. His visit will conclude on 13 November in Rio de Janeiro.

The British under secretary this morning gave a news conference in which he stated that he visited Itamaraty Palace, seat of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, yesterday.

Eggar, stated that "I explained the British Government's point of view, especially about the fishing around the islands."

"There is indirect contact between London and Buenos Aires through the United States on the need to prevent depredation around the islands," he added.

Regarding relations between Buenos Aires and London, Eggar recalled that "Argentina has not yet declared a cessation of hostilities" and that "it has not responded to several British gestures."

He gave as an example the fact that Great Britain in 1985 lifted the ban on imported Argentine products which had been imposed due to the 1982 Malvinas conflict.

He stressed that "there is currently a deficit of approximately $100 million [in the trade balance] in the total amount that Argentina has sold to Great Britain, while the British have sold practically nothing to that country."

Eggar added that London is expecting "some type of public signal in response to our proposals."

The British diplomat will meet with high-ranking local authorities in Sao Paulo; with the same purpose he will travel to Curitiba, capital of Parana State, and to Rio de Janeiro. He will then return to London.

Chile

Carvajal Reasserts Armed Forces Support

PY1011142588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0654 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Santiago, 9 Nov (EFE)—Chilean Defense Minister Patricio Carvajal said here today that just because there are fewer military officers in government posts does not mean the Armed Forces have withdrawn their support for the regime of General Augusto Pinochet.

Vice Admiral Patricio Carvajal, retired, made this statement to the media following a meeting with Interior Minister Carlos Caceres and Deputy Army Commander Jorge Zincke. During the meeting they discussed internal security issues.

Carvajal thus alluded to the cabinet reshuffle that took place in October, 2 weeks after the plebiscite. In this plebiscite the majority of Chileans expressed their opposition to Pinochet remaining as head of the nation for another 8-year presidential term.

Nine cabinet members resigned at the time, among them two of the four generals in the cabinet. Additionally, a third general, Public Works Minister Bruno Siebert, was sent to retirement.

Economy Ministry Manuel Concha is the only general in active duty in the new cabinet.

Carvajal said: "The involvement of military officers in the cabinet was small, and it has now been reduced to the minimum." He added: "However, this does not mean the Armed Forces have withdrawn their support from the government."

Regarding the recent changes in the Army High Command, (17 senior general were retired), Carvajal said that this must be interpreted within the framework of "a strictly institutional measure."

He added that the military are voluntarily leaving the government "until only the normal number of military officers remain in government posts."

President Pinochet Comments

PY1111114588 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] President Pinochet referred to the actions of some opposition organizations trying to put pressure on the government as a misdirected campaign. He made this remark when asked about the communique issued by the government on a campaign against the Armed Forces. According to the president, that communique was intended to make it clear that some opposition organizations are trying to put pressure on the government. The president said that since accurate information demonstrates the intent of those organizations, the government decided to issue the communique to inform the people clearly of the source of that campaign. In fact, Pinochet added, that campaign is misdirected. He also said that the communique cannot be construed as a warning from the Armed Forces, because we never give warnings before we strike.

When asked the reason for the departure of the major generals and the resignation of Sergio Badiola, the president answered that it is a process in which the low-ranking officers leave first and the general officers leave next.

Pinochet was finally asked what he could say to politicians who assert that there was an attempt to manipulate figures on the night of the plebiscite. The president replied that the opposition is always trying to raise some sort of objection. He added that the immoral politicians should develop some principles.

Errazuriz on Democratization, U.S. Relations

PY1211232388 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Before departing for El Salvador and the United States, Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz said that the government can show by deeds before, during, and after the plebiscite that the country is moving toward full democracy. He added that the current terrorist uprising in Chile poses a serious threat to the restoration of democracy. The foreign minister also noted the good climate of understanding with the U.S. Government, and affirmed that Chile has never before had the high international profile that it has had in recent years.

The foreign minister made those statements at a news conference today before departing for El Salvador to participate in the 18th session of the OAS General Assembly. [passage omitted]

Minister Errazuriz said that he will present at the OAS forum the Chilean Government's position rejecting foreign interference, a practice that is antidemocratic by definition. He also said he will reaffirm that Chile's transition to democracy is valid.

[Begin Errazuriz recording] We can point out important, concrete deeds, before, during, and after the plebiscite, that confirm the country's progress toward democracy. Moreover, we can show that we are now adding political freedoms to the economic freedoms. This will be the general line of my presentation to the OAS. We believe that our problems should be discussed at the sessions because they are sometimes looked upon with indifference abroad. There is currently a terrorist uprising in Chile which poses a threat to the restoration of democracy. [end recording]

Asked if countries of the Soviet orbit were being considered in Chile's policy of expanding diplomatic relations, the foreign minister replied: We are seeking the normalization and expansion of relations with all those countries that respect our institutional order, and there are several possibilities. As for relations with the United States, Minister Errazuriz said that both sides are interested in closer relations and that there is, no doubt, a climate of better understanding.

Colombia

65 Civilian Casualties in Guerrilla Attack

PA1211185588 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1803 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] In Segovia Muncipality in the northeast part of Antioquia Department, 34 civilians were killed and 31 wounded in an attack by a FARC and ELN [Army of National Liberation] guerrilla column.

This report was confirmed this morning by Antioquia Governor Antonio Roldan Bethancourt, who said that the battle in Segovia started around 1900 last night and lasted for several hours. The guerrilla column looted shops while battling the local military garrison soldiers and policemen.

Governor Confirms 40 Killed

PA1311035788 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0102 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The governor of Antioquia issued an official communique a few minutes ago confirming that 40 persons died last night during an attack on Segovia, La Cruzada, and Marquetalia in northeastern Antioquia. The official report repudiates the attack in which 19 people were wounded. We now bring you some footage filmed at the site of the massacre, where there are all sorts of rumors as to who did this.

The attack on Segovia, 226 km northeast of Medellin, began at approximately 1900 last night. Today, everyone had a different version of the events. Some say there were at least 300 attackers, others say only 40. Some say the attackers were members of the Army of National Liberation, others claim they were members of a paramilitary group. Some say they arrived in three vehicles, others say they came on foot.

According to area residents, the attackers were wearing camouflage shirts. The night of terror began in La Cruzada, where the murderers killed six persons and then attacked a bus.

It was after 1900 when the people of Segovia gathered, as usual, in the park, cafeterias, and bars to talk. They were attacked by armed men who began shooting in El Real Street, and then threw grenades and fired submachine-guns at Johnny's Bar, where 18 people were killed. The shootout spread throughout the entire town, including the church.

It was raining very hard during the attack, which prevented any reaction from the soldiers stationed at the Bombona Battalion, some people said. According to Segovia authorities, the police garrison was not attacked. The unidentified people carried out their attack for over 1 hour.

[Unidentified speaker] "This must be investigated, because innocent civilians have been killed."

The attackers left town and took the road to Remedios, and then they murdered several residents in Marquetalia. Everything was desolate today in Segovia, a town of 22,000 people. There were bodies all over the place this morning. Some of them were buried today.

[Unidentified speaker] "About 40 people were killed and 50 wounded."

The wounded are being treated tonight at the Segovia and Remedios hospitals. Others were taken to Medellin.

[Unidentified speaker] "The attackers did not respect the lives of anyone. They did not respect children, no one. They went to a neighborhood called La Reina, and that is where the massacre began. That is in the downtown area of Segovia."

It was announced in Segovia today that there will be 3 days of mourning, and that an indefinite strike will be held until the authorities, led by the attorney general, come to the town.

Paramilitary Group Frees Kidnapped Officials

PA1311122488 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Retired Major Guillermo Rodriguez, the director of Antioquia's Civil Defense office, and Sergeant Miguel Antonio Avila—who had been kidnapped by the ELN [Army of National Liberation]—were rescued last Wednesday by the self-styled Death to the Revolutionaries of Northeastern Antioquia Movement [MMRN] [Movimiento Muerte a Revolucionarios del Noreste Antioqueno] and released today.

The officials delivered a communique from the movement, in which the movement rejects President Virgilio Barco's peace policy.

The civil defense officials were released last Wednesday in a strange paramilitary operation by a unit of the self-styled MMRN. This is the same group that earlier in March claimed credit for the murder of the Remedios mayor, Jesus Martinez, a member of the Patriotic Union.

[Begin Guillermo Rodriguez recording] There was a clash, and the people who had kidnapped us suddenly disappeared. Later, we were under the control of this group, the MMRN, who gave us a communique to deliver to the press. [end recording]

They have been held since then by this paramilitary organization, which released them yesterday afternoon near the Bombona Battalion, near Segovia, a few hours before the massacre. The civil defense officials stayed there overnight and today they are in Bogota, where they delivered the communique to the Armed Forces and the press. In this communique, the paramilitary group rejects President Barco's statements made on the occasion of the anniversary of the police force. Barco called for a political, not military, solution to the armed conflict in the country.

In the same communique, the MMRN accepted the call made by former Defense Minister General Rafael Samudio Molina to declare total war on the subversives throughout the country.

Rebels Set Conditions for Releasing Policemen

PA1311044088 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] The Army of National Liberation [ELN], which has held 17 policemen for 2 months following the attack on San Pablo, Bolivar, has demanded that representatives from the United Nations, Congress, and the Vatican be present in order for it to release the policemen. The ELN sent a message to this effect to the attorney general, who, by the way, rejected these demands.

11 Soldiers Killed by FARC Bomb Attack

PA1211140488 Bogota LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Nov 88 pp 1, 11

[Excerpt] Several soldiers were crushed to death by twisted pieces of metal from a military truck that was dynamited by FARC guerrillas on the Cano Brasil-Miravalles highway.

The explosion burned the soldiers' boots and scattered pieces of military uniforms and G-3 rifles all over the brush bordering the highway.

The guerrillas detonated 50 kg of dynamite buried on the highway, killing nine soldiers and two noncommissioned officers. The military men were members of the Alban Engineers' Battalion, headquartered at Medellin del Ariari.

Five recruits in critical condition were taken immediately to Bogota last night for emergency medical treatment. Meanwhile, 20 others recovered in the emergency room at Apiay base, near Villavicencio.

General Rafael Padilla Vergara and General Harold Bedoya Pizarro, commanders of the 4th Division and the 7th Army Brigade respectively, are currently directing operations to track down the 60 guerrillas who blew up the military vehicle.

Colombian Armed Forces aircraft machinegunned large areas in Cano Brasil and El Castillo where the FARC guerrillas were hiding. The results of these operations were still unknown as of last night.

ELN Threatens Minister; Security Tightened

PA1011170388 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Security measures to protect Government Minister Cesar Gaviria Trujillo were tightened today following threats made against him by the National Liberation Army (ELN).

Several telephone calls to the Constitutional Commission's office announced that an attempt would be made on Gaviria's life.

The minister is taking part in the commission's debate on amendments to the Constitution.

Minister Outlines Losses From Terrorist Acts

PA1011151488 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 7 Nov 88 pp 1-A, 2-A

[Excerpts] Losses so far this year from the terrorist campaign being waged by leftist guerrilla groups against the Colombian energy grid—electrical lines, towers, and substations—and gas and oil pipelines total 180 billion pesos.

This information was disclosed by Mines and Energy Minister Oscar Mejia Vallejo. After saying that these have been the most damaging terrorist and sabotage activities against the energy sector in the country's entire history, he said that Colombians, especially the low-income classes, will be the ones who pay for the enormous damage caused by the guerrillas.

Moreover, as a direct consequence of the dynamite attacks the government will be obliged to revise the present electricity rates; rates will have to reflect costs that have increased considerably as a result of this brutal terrorist campaign, the minister said on the Caracol network's regular "Person of the Week" program.

In his report on the Caracol network, Mejia Vallejo made a dramatic assessment of the terrorist activities carried out against thermoelectric installations on the Atlantic Coast, the national power grid, and the infrastructure for the transportation of hydrocarbons. He emphasized that losses to the national economy are enormous.

The minister said that the terrorist actions were well coordinated and that the guerrillas wanted to leave the country in total "darkness" and halt national production, at least for a long time. "Fortunately, the generating plants and substations, with the exception of the Yumbo substation, were properly guarded, which kept the damage from being even greater," Mejia Vallejo said.

The minister said that it has cost 2 billion pesos just to repair damage to the electrical sector, while losses on the Atlantic coast totaled 18 billion pesos because of the severe rationing that was imposed for an entire week, first because the thermoelectric plants were destroyed, and then because, when the area was receiving electricity from the interconnected power grid, that network was also sabotaged. [passage omitted]

The minister emphasized that the serious acts of sabotage carried out at the thermoelectric plants and other CORELCA [Electric Corporation of the Atlantic Coast] installations, which left the Atlantic Coast without electricity, were committed by workers who have been clearly linked to the terrorist ELN [Army of National Liberation]. [passage omitted]

Military Appointments, Changes Announced

PA1411042588 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 9 Nov 88 pp 1-A, 2-A

[Text] General Eduardo Roca has been appointed Armed Forces inspector general; General Jairo Humberto Neira Garcia has been appointed Army inspector general; and General Farouk Yanine Diaz has been appointed assistant chief of staff.

General Jose Guzman Rodriguez has been appointed military chief of Uraba region, replacing General Jesus Armando Arias Cabrales, who has been transferred to an Army command post.

General Humberto Neira Garcia will be in charge of the 1st Division, with headquarters in Santa Marta; General Ramon Gil Bermudez will be in charge of the 2d Division, with headquarters in Bucaramanga; General Eduardo Plata Quinones will be in charge of the 3d Division, with headquarters in Cali; and General Rafael Padilla Vergara has been confirmed in his post in the 4th Division, with headquarters in Villavicencio.

Colonel Humberto Hincapie has been confirmed in the 1st Brigade, with headquarters in Tunja; newly promoted Brigadier General Carlos Gil Colorado will be in charge of the 2d Brigade, with headquarters in Barranquilla. Brigadier General Jose Bonnet will be in charge of the 3d Brigade, with headquarters in Cali; General Jaime Ruiz Barrera will continue to be in charge of the 4th Brigade, with headquarters in Medellin; and General Alfonso Vacca Perilla has been confirmed in the 5th Brigade, with headquarters in Bucaramanga.

General Gregorio Torres will continue to be in charge of the 6th Brigade, with headquarters in Ibague; General Harold Bedoya Pizarro will continue to be in charge of the 7th Brigade, with headquarters in Villavicencio; and General Camilo Hernando Zuniga will continue to be in charge of the 8th Brigade, with headquarters in Armenia.

Colonel Ivan Ramirez will be in charge of the 9th Brigade, with headquarters in Neiva; Brigadier General Hugo Tovar Sanchez will be in charge of the 10th Brigade, with headquarters in Tolemaida; and General Rodolfo Corral will be in charge of the 11th Brigade, with headquarters in Monteria. General Jose Ayuel Cordoba will be in charge of the 12th Brigade, with headquarters in Florencia; General Ramon Niebles Uscategui will be in charge of the 13th Brigade, with headquarters in Bogota; and General Raul Rojas will continue to be in charge of the 14th Brigade, with headquarters in Puerto Berrio, Middle Magdalena zone.

General Jaime Moreno Quinonez will be second in command of the Colombian Air Force and Rear Admiral Eduardo Garay will be second in command of the National Navy.

This is how the military command throughout the country will be comprised following the resignation of National Defense Minister Gen Rafael Samudio Molina, who was replaced by General Jaime Guerrero Paz.

General Oscar Botero Restrepo will be Armed Forces commander general; General Nelson Mejia Henao will be Army commander general; and General Pedro Nel Moreno Vanegas will be chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Admiral Manuel Avendano Galvis will be in charge of the National Navy, and General Alfonso Amaya Maldonado will be in charge of the Colombian Air Force.

General Manuel Sanmiguel Buenaventura is the new director of the "Jose Maria Cordoba" Cadet School.

The changes in the 4 brigades and 14 divisions will become effective in December.

Peru

Garcia on Democracy, Request for Resignation

PY1011195488 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] President Alan Garcia termed the SODE [Solidarity and Democracy Party] request that he resign an outburst that should be ignored. We have to learn how to live in a democracy because it is the system in which pluralism and participation prevail.

Referring to statements Prime Minister Armando Villanueva del Campo made in Ayacucho, Garcia said that the only thing that can cause rivers of blood to flow is lack of respect for democracy.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Mr President, how did you react to SODE's request that you resign and how do you describe it?

[Garcia] I think the request is a regrettable outburst because we have to learn how to live in a democracy. Democracy and elections mean that only the people's vote can put an end to a term in office. I want to assure the country that we will guarantee that democracy will be preserved no matter what. I understand this type of request coming from people who are not accustomed to living in a democracy.

I have to remind Peruvians that one of their greatest victories is the democracy and freedom the country enjoys. We must resolve the problems we are having democratically, in a responsible manner, in order to never again live in a dictatorship in which freedom is curtailed, free expression is restricted, and in which the people are treated as minors who are unable to make their own decisions and participate in national life.

I think we should learn how to live in a democracy and that a resignation is never convenient. We should meet our responsibilities and overcome our problems. That is democracy. The problems should be overcome within the framework of democracy because democracy means participation and pluralism.

[Reporter] [Passage indistinct] Maybe the APRA feels resentment toward Senator Javier Silva Ruete and Deputy Aurelio Loret de Mola.

[Garcia] I do not put labels on people, but I think it is convenient for all Peruvians to learn how to live in democracy. I regard as constructive the reactions of most Peruvian citizens who know that democracy can solve its own problems without resignations, limitations, or temporary restrictions. I think that both the great consensus in favor of the Constitution and the unexpected request of a small group are elements of democracy.

[Reporter] What do you think about Senator Armando Villanueva del Campo's statements in Ayacucho that have been widely commented on by the people?

[Garcia] I find Villanueva's statement to be a little dramatic. Only terrorism can cause rivers of blood to flow in our country. A lack of respect toward the Constitution and democracy is the only thing that can make rivers of blood flow.

I do not think that a figure of speech such as the frequent mention of blood, a figure of speech used by important people like Churchill, should be regarded as very dramatic. To our credit, this administration has attained full respect for freedom and has struggled to preserve our democracy and full respect for the Constitution.

[Reporter] Do you believe, as does Mr Villanueva, that the rightist sector will not take power in Peru?

[Garcia] I think that people's vote should decide what is best for Peru. [end recording]

Garcia on Economic Corrections, Miners' Strike
PY1011095788 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The head of state has discussed several issues with the media, including the law on nationalization of the banks. He also focused on the country's economic situation, saying that 1989 will be a positive year.

President Alan Garcia also expressed his concern about the miners' strike, which seems to be handled from a political viewpoint.

[Begin Garcia recording] The entire nation is aware that the economic correction program implemented in September must be completed. The important issue is how it will be completed. [passage omitted]

I believe it is no longer necessary to further deteriorate the purchasing power of the salaried workers. This is the issue under discussion now.

Several measures must be taken. Exporters need better dollar exchange rates in order to increase exports, supply us with dollars, and create jobs in the interior of the country. This means that if the dollar exchange rate is increased, the prices for some products will also be increased. The important issue is how much the prices for these products are increased and how much the salaries are increased in comparison with the foodstuff price increases. [passage omitted]

I am addressing the economic problem from a different viewpoint. In September, the country already reduced its foreign exchange consumption rate. When prices are increased, the consumption rate of products purchased abroad with dollars is reduced. Thus, we are saving dollars.

It is important now to obtain more dollars while maintaining exports. In this connection, it is necessary to take some measures. [passage omitted]

Of course, several measures must be taken in order to guarantee export increases, to guarantee that the consumption rate and salaries will not be deteriorated, and to guarantee that the state will not increase subsidies or may even reduce them. However, all this must be done gradually.

Some people say that it is dangerous to take measures gradually because like this they are never taken. I believe that with the people's cooperation—if the people understand that measures will no longer have the dramatic impact they had in September and that some measures are taken in order to close some gaps without taking great risks—the purpose of stabilizing the economy will be successful.

I believe that next year we will have a more stable economy with a much smaller inflation rate and with consumption rates and incomes of salaried workers capable of growing soundly, thus allowing the country's overall economy to grow as well.

Thus far, the prospects for next year appear positive. Prices for metals have increased consistently. Fishmeal prices have also increased and they are holding. Copper prices, for example, have reached unprecedented levels.

It is time to take advantage of all this. Thus, we are very concerned about the problem of the miners' strike, which seems to be handled from a political viewpoint.

We must take the opportunity next year to grow. If there are these good international prospects for good prices, then we must increase exports. However, we must no longer punish the people by reducing their consumption rate.

Therefore, I would say that any necessary corrective measures must be taken respecting the people's income as much as possible. The people suffered enough in September 1988. [End recording]

Congress Approves Antiterrorism Bill 11 Nov
PY1111174688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0334 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Lima, 10 Nov (EFE)—Legislative sources reported in Lima today that the Peruvian Congress has approved a bill establishing more severe penalties for terrorists and also establishing punishments for the support of terrorist acts.

The bill, which was discussed in the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, establishes prison terms ranging from 10 to 20 years. It was immediately sent to the Executive Branch for promulgation.

The bill was approved 3 months after Peruvian President Alan Garcia presented it to Congress on 28 July, when Garcia completed the 3d year of a 5-year term of office which began in 1985.

The provisions approved by Congress amend 6 articles in section 8, volume 2 of the Peruvian penal code, adding more severe sentences and the means for expanding court actions against subversion.

A prison term of 20 years or more will be imposed on those who cause anxiety, alarm, or terror among the population or any part of it, acts against a person's life or health, or acts against private or public property if such acts impair the community's basic services.

In all cases, the instigators or masterminds, the principals in the second degree, and the accomplices will receive the same sentences as the perpetrators.

More severe sentences have also been established for cases in which a perpetrator belongs to an organization that uses terrorism as a means to achieve its goals, including the Maoist "Shining Path" organization and the MRTA.

Supporting, approving, or praising terrorist acts can be punished with prison terms of 5 years or more, and a 5-year prison term has been established for the crime of making, purchasing, stealing, or storing weapons or explosives for the purpose of terrorism.

More than 12,000 people have been killed in Peru in subversive and anti-subversive actions since the "Shining Path" organization began its armed struggle in 1980. More than $10 billion in material losses have been registered as well.

Government Repeals Ceiling on Salary Increases

PY1111155588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0328 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Lima, 10 Nov (EFE)—Pressed by a wave of strikes involving some 180,000 workers, the Peruvian Government today announced the repeal of the law restricting salary increses that had prompted the strikes.

In a news conference, Labor Minister Orestes Rodriguez said that this decree was repealed today during a cabinet meeting to prevent workers from losing purchasing power.

The decree established a limit of 40,000 inties ($80 on the free market) on wage increases. This limit was rejected by workers at private and public enterprises who had already obtained higher increases in collective bargaining agreements.

Rodriguez said that the cabinet decided to repeal the decree because the agreements between the workers and businessmen had been reached for the purpose of overcoming the country's crisis.

The labor minister asked both sides to react "responsibly" toward the financial capabilities of each enterprise in order to preserve jobs.

Rodriguez added that the repealed decree had established standards to curb inflation, "guarantee the country's economic stability, preserve jobs, and protect low-income workers."

The decree became effective 2 weeks ago and prompted reaction from several labor unions, including more than 30,000 bank employees belonging to the Peruvian Bank Employees Federation (FEB), who held a 24-hour stoppage on 28 October and began an indefinite strike on 7 November to demand repeal of the decree.

The employees of the state-owned utility companies such as the Lima Electric Power Company [Compania de Electricidad Electro Lima], food distributers, public charity organizations, the judicial branch, and the Interior Ministry also joined in the strike.

After hearing of the labor minister's remarks, FEB Secretary General Augusto Garcia said that FEB could not decide whether to stop the 4-day-old strike until it had seen the full text of the decree that repealed the cap on wage increases.

500 Students Clash With Police in Ayacucho

PY1211030988 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0148 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Ayacucho, 11 Nov (EFE)—Police today broke up a student demonstration demanding larger funds for this city's university. Witnesses reported that 50 people were injured, 4 of them seriously.

The witnesses also reported that over 100 students were arrested. They said this is the first time in 10 years that police have acted with such harshness against teachers and students of the University of Huamanga, which is suffering serious economic and financial problems.

The witnesses said that about 500 students went into the streets challenging the decision of the political-military command to prohibit the demonstration because the province is under a state of emergency, a suspension of guarantees, and a curfew.

Police dispersed the demonstrators with tear gas canisters and buckshot. Nearly 50 people were wounded, 1 of whom was shot in the right eye. Three others were wounded in the face.

Police sources told the press that the detainees will be placed at the disposal of the provincial prosecutor on charges of disrupting public order and of disrespecting government authorities.

These acts of violence occurred in the main city of the strife-torn Ayacucho Province, the birthplace of the Maoist Shining Path terrorist organization. The province is located 576 km southeast of Lima.

Venezuela

Lusinchi Congratulates Bush on Election Victory

PA1111203788 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2335 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Caracas, 10 Nov (DPA)—Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi (Social Democratic Party) today congratulated U.S. President-elect George Bush on his victory in last Tuesday's presidential elections.

Lusinchi highlighted that victory in a telegram sent today, calling it a "resounding victory," and urging the next U.S. President "to include such problems as the foreign debt, which weighs so heavily on our prospects for development, on your agenda, as we in Latin America expect you will."

He added: "I am convinced that, for the United States, democracy, socioeconomic development, and Latin American and Caribbean stability are fundamental." Lusinchi stressed that by securing a dialogue "we can reach a more positive and more permanent understanding for the benefit of both your country and ours."

In closing, the Venezuelan president voiced his desire "for fruitful relations between the United States and the Latin American countries, based on understanding and mutual interests."

Carlos Andres Perez on Bush Election Victory

PA1011140188 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Diana Iturriza report; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Democratic Action presidential candidate Carlos Andres Perez commented on the importance of democratic governments' administrative continuity in a statement he issued regarding George Bush's election victory in the United States. He pointed out that Bush has been vice president during Ronald Reagan's administration.

Carlos Andres Perez believes, and he stated this in a news conference, that the results of the U.S. electoral process could be repeated in our country. He believes that continuity is essential for Venezuela.

[Perez] "We are fortunate that continuity is possible in Venezuela's case. I will replace President Jaime Lusinchi, and this continuity guarantees the next government's strength and firmness. Likewise, there is no doubt that my decisions will be made according to our reality and not according to what President Lusinchi did or did not do in the past. He has faced the most difficult situations in Venezuela's democratic process."

Perez recognized George Bush's victory and said that, as the new U.S. president, Bush will have to face the United States' economic reality—which has been set aside during the electoral process. Bush will also have to face the foreign trade deficit in the United States, a weaker dollar, and the U.S. debt. In sum, Carlos Andres Perez reasserted the predictions that have circulated in regard to the next U.S. president's problems.

[Perez] "The truth is that we all expected Mr Bush's victory because we know that the polls are not a game. They are a very serious matter. Even if he maintains President Reagan's Republican policies, the new U.S. President will have to face situations that President Reagan was able to handle without creating grave problems for the U.S. economy. I am convinced that President Bush's policies will involve major changes."

Carlos Andres Perez also said that both this government and the next one will have to seek formulas to discuss the most critical problems that prevail in Latin America and let George Bush know about the country's hopes during his administration.